

**MARVEL**

# X-MEN<sup>®</sup>



# MUTANT GENESIS

CLAREMONT • LEE

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# MAGNETO'S FUTURE, WOLVERINE'S PAST — AND THE X-MEN IN BETWEEN!

From Asteroid M to Weapon X, Marvel's mightiest mutants are getting brainwashed wherever they go! Magneto acquires a new army, the Hand revives an old enemy, and it's up to the X-Men to stop either plan from succeeding! Acolytes, ninjas and more! Featuring mysteries from the history of Wolverine, with the first flashback appearance of Team X!

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**MARVEL**

PREMIERE  
EDITION

**MARVEL**

# X-MEN®



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\$3.95 US  
\$4.75 CAN  
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X-MEN



STAN LEE  
PROUDLY  
PRESENTS  
THE DAWN  
OF A NEW  
ERA!

NEAR-EARTH SPACE, ON  
THE SHADOW SIDE OF  
THE TERMINATOR, RACING  
FROM DAY TO NIGHT...

WE'RE  
HIT!

A WARNING  
SHOT, JUST  
TO LET US  
KNOW THEY  
MEAN  
BUSINESS.

WE GET  
THE BLOODY  
MESSAGE!  
SO LET'S DO  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT,  
OKAY?!

WHERE'S  
ASTEROID  
M?

OUR ENTIRE  
PLAN WAS  
BASED ON  
FINDING THAT  
ORBITING HUNK  
OF ROCK--

--YOU SWORE  
YOUR PRECIOUS  
SENSORS COULD  
DO THE JOB--

--SO WHERE  
THE DEVIL  
IS IT?!!

I DON'T  
KNOW!

ALL I'M  
SCANNING  
IS EMPTY  
SPACE!

ABSOLUTELY  
SPECTACULAR!

I JUST  
NAILED ONE  
OF THE  
PURSUIT  
SHIPS.

KILL THE  
OTHER  
TWO... THEN  
WE'LL  
CHEER.

CHEYENNE  
COMMAND  
FROM  
STRIKE-  
EAGLE  
LEADER  
DELGADO

...ONE CRAFT LOST...

...FUGITIVES  
REFUSING TO  
ANSWER HAILS,  
MUCH LESS  
SURRENDER.

REQUESTING  
RELEASE TO  
RETURN FIRE.

STUFF  
PERMISSION,  
HARRY

JUST  
FRY  
THE  
SWINE.

A HUNDRED-  
FIFTY MILES  
ABOVE MOTHER  
RUSSIA, NANCE?

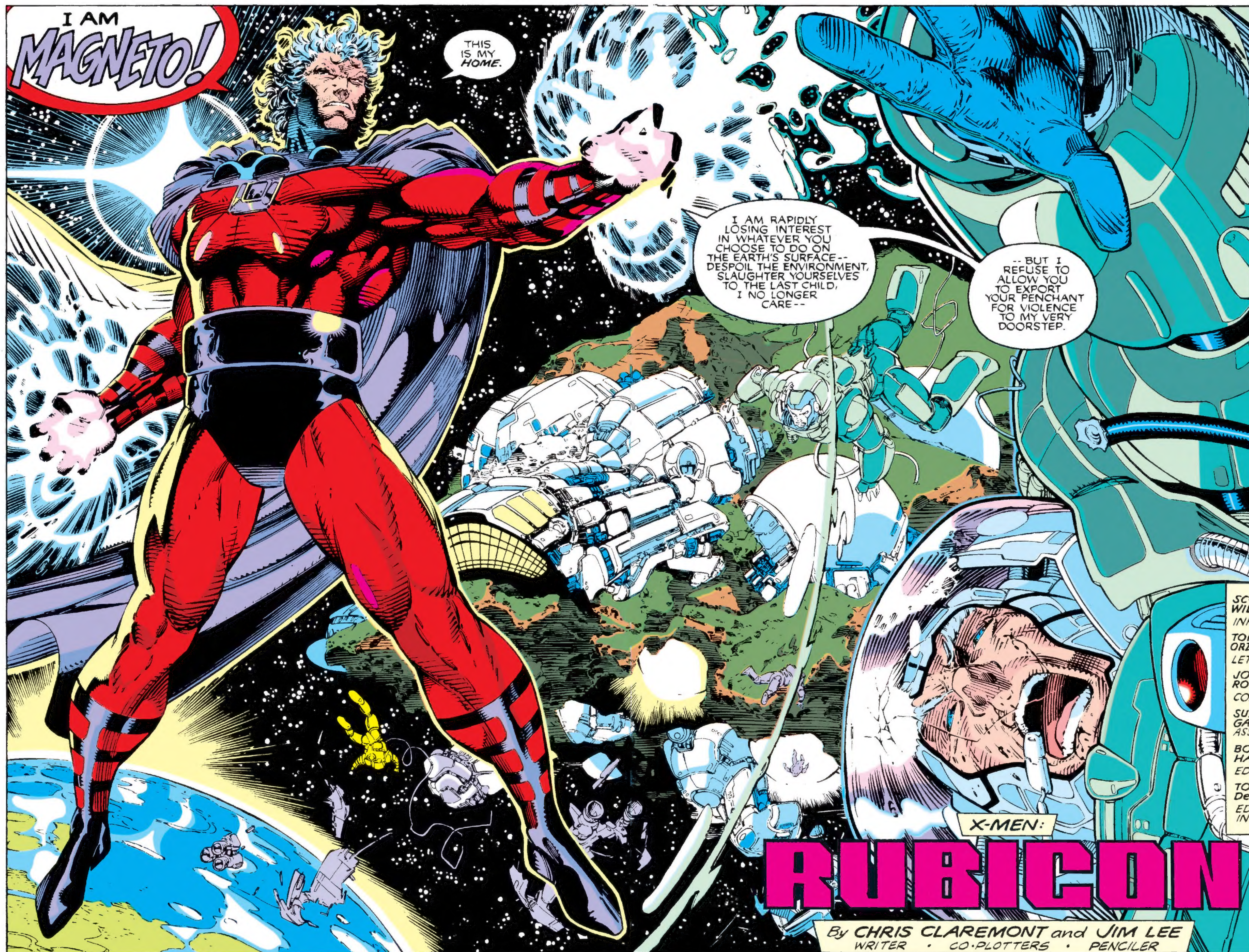
REAL EASY  
WAY TO  
START A  
WORLD  
WAR.

SKIPPER,  
I'M RECORDING  
MASSIVE SPIKES,  
ALL ACROSS THE  
ELECTROMAGNETIC  
SPECTRUM! LOSING  
COHERENCE ON  
ALL INTERNAL  
ELECTRONICS!

SOMETHING'S  
HAPPENING  
UP AHEAD!

THAT  
FLASH OF  
**LIGHT!**





I AM  
**MAGNETO!**

THIS  
IS MY  
HOME.

I AM RAPIDLY  
LOSING INTEREST  
IN WHATEVER YOU  
CHOOSE TO DO ON  
THE EARTH'S SURFACE--  
DESPOIL THE ENVIRONMENT,  
SLAUGHTER YOURSELVES  
TO THE LAST CHILD,  
I NO LONGER  
CARE--

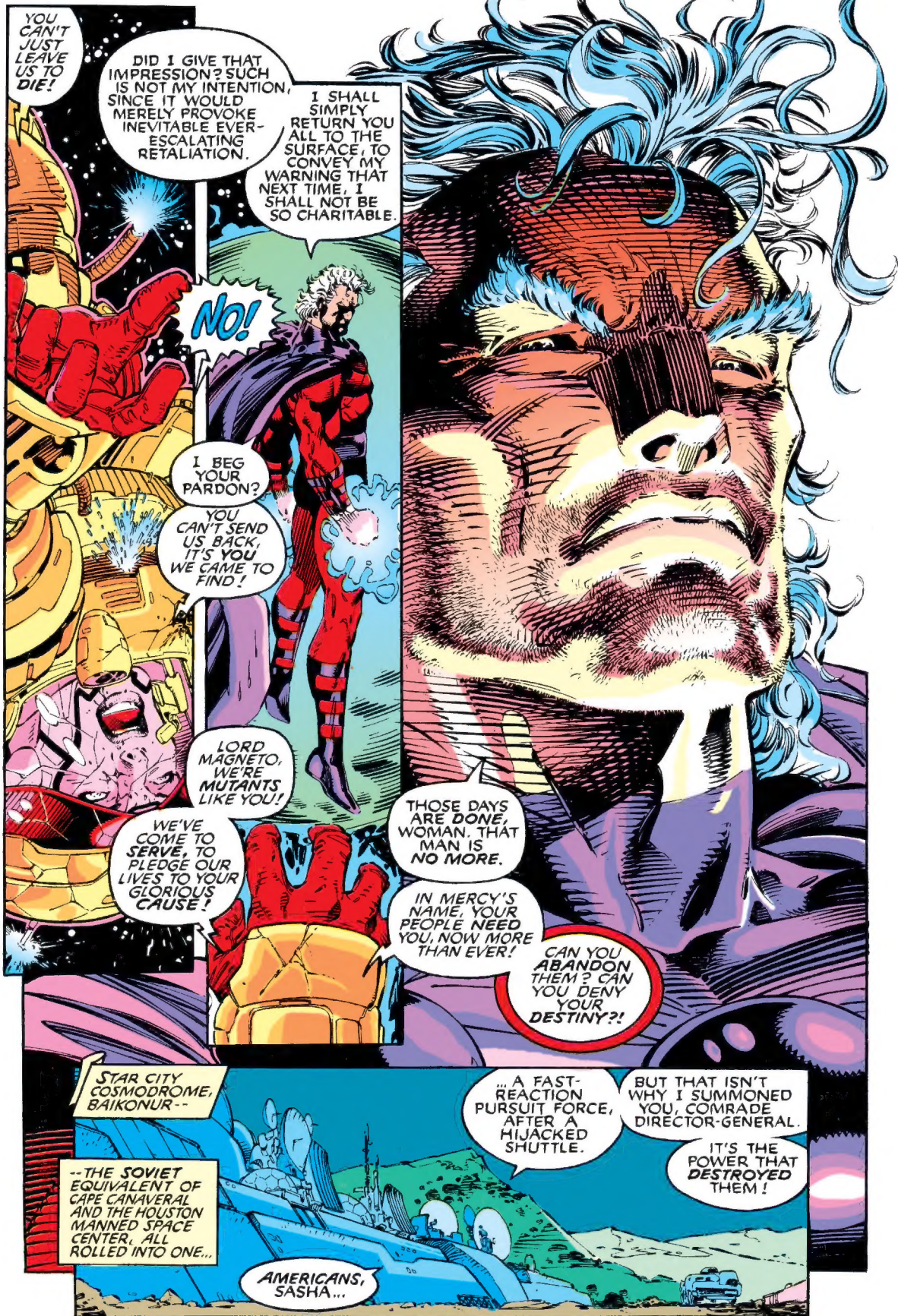
-- BUT I  
REFUSE TO  
ALLOW YOU  
TO EXPORT  
YOUR PENCHANT  
FOR VIOLENCE  
TO MY VERY  
DOORSTEP.

SCOTT  
WILLIAMS  
INKER  
TOM  
ORZECOWSKI  
LETTERER  
JOE  
ROSAS  
COLORIST  
SUZANNE  
GAFFNEY  
ASS'T. EDITOR  
BOB  
HARRAS  
EDITOR  
TOM  
DeFALCO  
EDITOR  
IN CHIEF

**RUBICON**

By CHRIS CLAREMONT and JIM LEE  
WRITER • CO-PLOTTERS • PENCILER





YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE US TO DIE!

DID I GIVE THAT IMPRESSION? SUCH IS NOT MY INTENTION, SINCE IT WOULD MERELY PROVOKE INEVITABLE EVER-ESCALATING RETALIATION.

I SHALL SIMPLY RETURN YOU ALL TO THE SURFACE, TO CONVEY MY WARNING THAT NEXT TIME, I SHALL NOT BE SO CHARITABLE.

No!

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

YOU CAN'T SEND US BACK, IT'S YOU WE CAME TO FIND!

LORD MAGNETO, WE'RE MUTANTS LIKE YOU!

WE'VE COME TO SERVE, TO PLEDGE OUR LIVES TO YOUR GLORIOUS CAUSE!

THOSE DAYS ARE DONE, WOMAN. THAT MAN IS NO MORE.

IN MERCY'S NAME, YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU, NOW MORE THAN EVER!

CAN YOU ABANDON THEM? CAN YOU DENY YOUR DESTINY?!

STAR CITY COSMODROME, BAIKONUR--

--THE SOVIET EQUIVALENT OF CAPE CANAVERAL AND THE HOUSTON MANNED SPACE CENTER, ALL ROLLED INTO ONE...

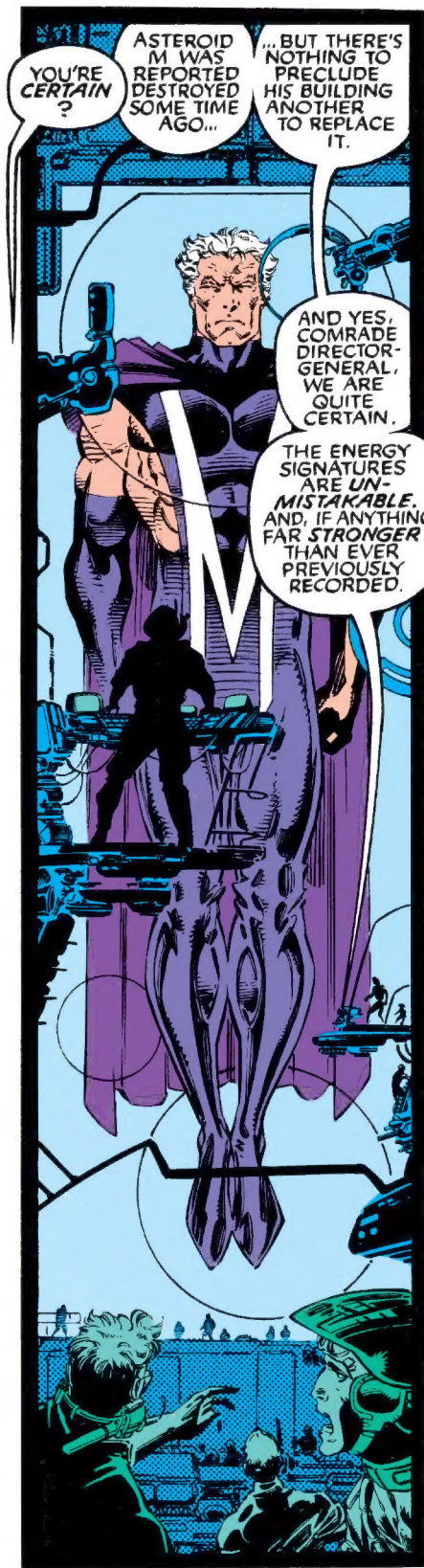
... A FAST-REACTION PURSUIT FORCE, AFTER A HIJACKED SHUTTLE.

BUT THAT ISN'T WHY I SUMMONED YOU, COMRADE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

IT'S THE POWER THAT DESTROYED THEM!

AMERICANS, SASHA...





YOU'RE CERTAIN?

ASTEROID M WAS REPORTED DESTROYED SOME TIME AGO...

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO PRECLUDE HIS BUILDING ANOTHER TO REPLACE IT.

AND YES, COMRADE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN.

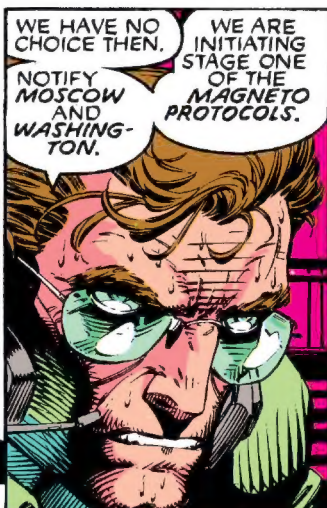
THE ENERGY SIGNATURES ARE UNMISTAKABLE. AND, IF ANYTHING, FAR STRONGER THAN EVER PREVIOUSLY RECORDED.



IT IS MAGNETO.

AND, IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, HE IS MAINTAINING THAT ACCURSED ROCK IN A SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT...

...TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY KILOMETERS ABOVE OUR HEADS.



WE HAVE NO CHOICE THEN. NOTIFY MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON.

WE ARE INITIATING STAGE ONE OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS.



A PRUDENT MOVE, IN MY ESTIMATION, COLONEL FURY.

WERE ASTEROID M OVER OUR HEADS, I'D BE INCLINED TO DO THE SAME.

ESPECIALLY SINCE THOSE WERE AMERICAN SHUTTLES HE DESTROYED.



IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, IN FACT, THAT THE TERRORISTS WHO HIJACKED OUR VEHICLE...

...LOOK TO HIM AS THEIR INSPIRATION.

SUPPOSE HE MAKES THEIR CAUSE HIS OWN?

IF THE SOVIETS ACT LIKE HOTHEADS, MISTER PRESIDENT...

...THEY COULD MAKE THINGS WORSE.



YOU HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE?



FORTY MILES NORTH OF NEW YORK CITY, JUST SHY OF THE CONNECTICUT BORDER, A COUPLE OF MILES DOWN GRAYMALKIN LANE FROM THE TOWN OF SALEM CENTER...

...ON THE GROUNDS OF AN ESTATE THAT PREDATES THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (WHEN THIS COULD STILL BE CALLED "INDIAN COUNTRY")...

...STANDS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

A VERY SPECIAL SCHOOL.

FOR VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE.

BETTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD AT LARGE AS THE X-MEN.

PART OF WHAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL IS THAT THEY'RE MUTANTS...

...BORN WITH PARANORMAL ABILITIES THAT SET THEM APART FROM THE GENERAL RUN OF HUMANITY.

AND PART IS WHAT THEY CHOOSE TO DO WITH THOSE POWERS.

ASSAULT GROUP "A" ON-SCREEN, CYCLOPS--

--CONSISTING OF ROGUE, ICEMAN, ARCHANGEL AND COLOSSUS.

THANKS, BEAST.

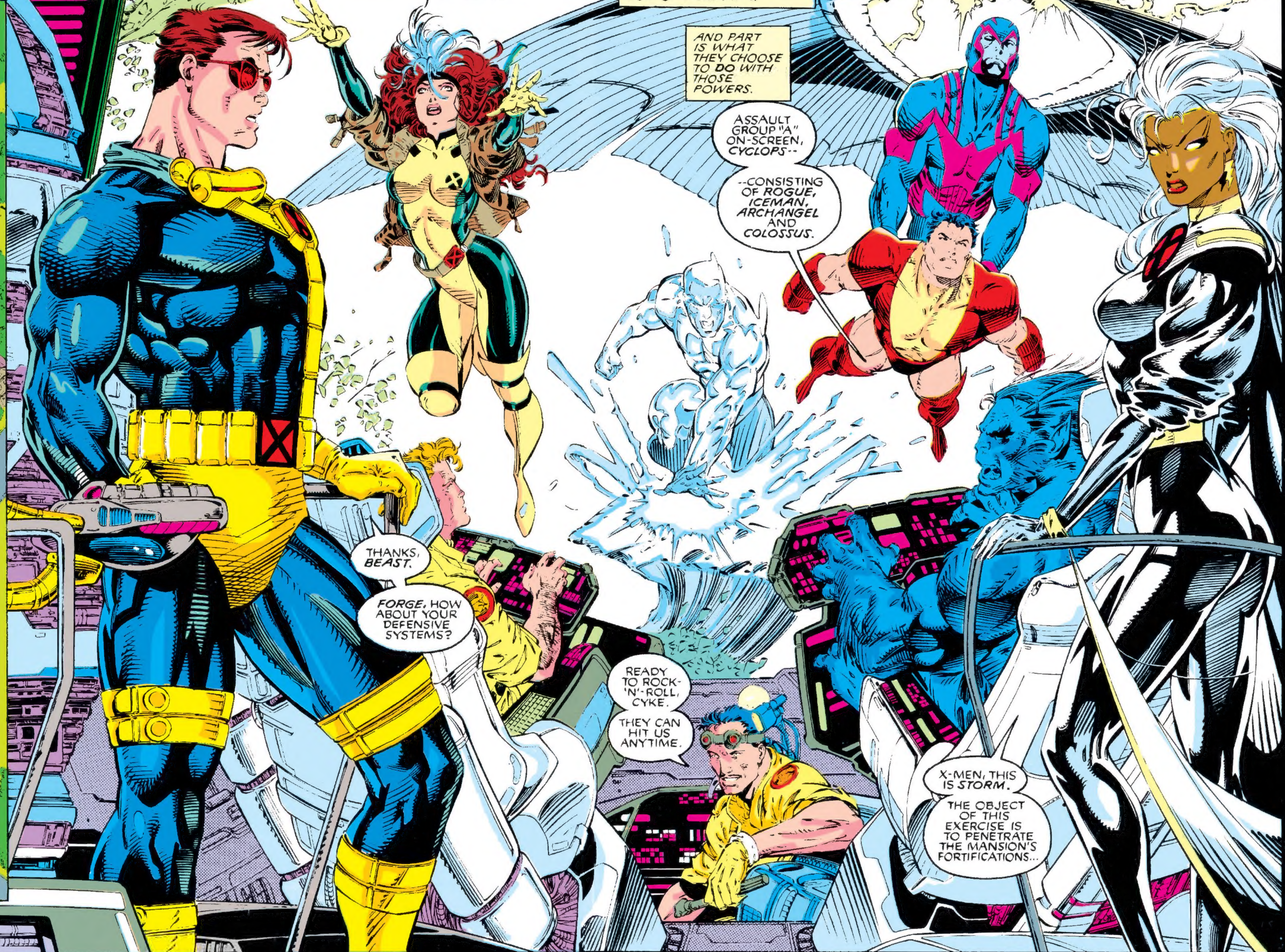
FORGE, HOW ABOUT YOUR DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS?

READY TO ROCK-'N'-ROLL, CYKE.

THEY CAN HIT US ANYTIME.

X-MEN, THIS IS STORM.

THE OBJECT OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO PENETRATE THE MANSION'S FORTIFICATIONS...





"-- AND THEN LOCATE-- AND 'CAPTURE'-- PROFESSOR X."

JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.

WHAT IS THE SAYING, JEAN-- "PLUS CE CHANGE, PLUS CE MÊME CHOSE?"

"THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME."

SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I WAS LAST IN THIS MANSION, AND TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE X-MEN-- INCLUDING MYSELF--

-- IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH WE WERE ALL COMING TOGETHER...

...FOR THE FIRST TIME.

I NEED TO LEARN THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES, HOW YOU MESH AS A TEAM, HOW BEST FOR ME TO INTERACT WITH YOU.

AND, ULTIMATELY, WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

ALL OUR WORK, OUR EFFORTS--

-- I KEPT HOPING THE WORLD WOULD RESPOND BY BECOMING A GENTLER, MORE TOLERANT PLACE...

...WITH BRIDGES BUILT BETWEEN HUMANITY AND ITS MUTANT OFFSPRING.

INSTEAD, WE SEEM TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS, NOW MORE THAN EVER.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US SHARPENED TO A KILLING EDGE.

WITH SOME OF THE CHILDREN ENTRUSTED TO MY CARE BURIED.

I KEEP WONDERING, HAD I NEVER LEFT, COULD I HAVE SOMEHOW PREVENTED THIS FROM HAPPENING.

YOU DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT BEST, CHARLES...

...AS DID WE.

NOW, WE PICK UP THE PIECES.

GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY.

I HAVE BEEN AWAY SO LONG, JEAN.

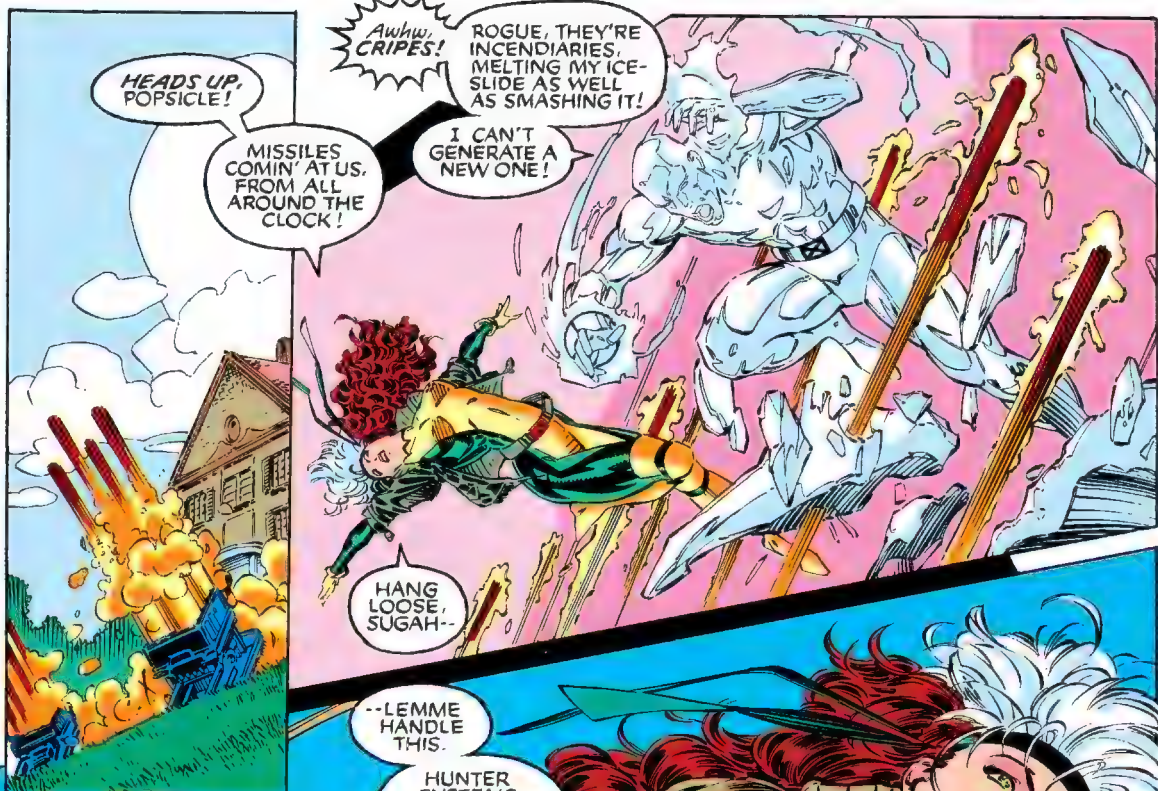
I LOOK AT THE WORLD, AND CANNOT HELP WONDERING...

...IF MY DREAM HAS ANY VALIDITY ANYMORE.

IF IT DIDN'T...

...WE WOULDN'T BE HERE.





HEADS UP,  
POPSICLE!

MISSILES  
COMIN' AT US.  
FROM ALL  
AROUND THE  
CLOCK!

Awww,  
CRIPES!

ROGUE, THEY'RE  
INCENDIARIES,  
MELTING MY ICE-  
SLIDE AS WELL  
AS SMASHING IT!

I CAN'T  
GENERATE A  
NEW ONE!

HANG  
LOOSE,  
SUGAH--

--LEMMIE  
HANDLE  
THIS.

HUNTER  
SYSTEMS  
LOCKIN' ON MY  
BIO-SIGNATURE,  
JUS' LIKE AH  
FIGURED.

WHICH  
MEANS THEY'LL  
FOLLOW ME  
WHEREVER  
AH RUN.

SIMPLEST  
SOLUTION IS TO  
BOOGIE AT TOP  
SPEED, FASTER'N  
THEY CAN CATCH  
ME, 'TIL THE POOR  
DEARS RUN OUT  
O' GAS.

AH LIKE  
THIS IDEA  
BETTER.

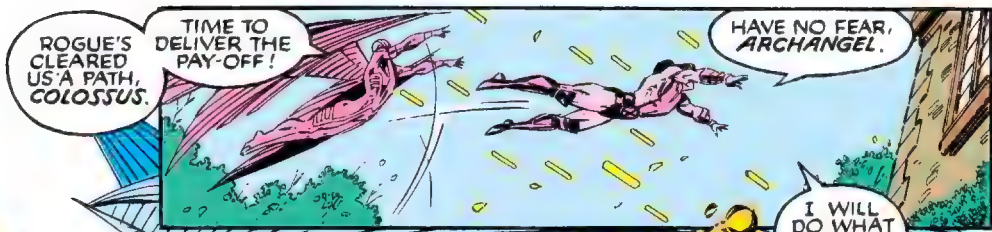
AH CALL IT,  
"RETURN T'  
SENDER!"

BYE-BYE  
MISSILES,  
BYE-BYE  
LAUNCHERS.

AH DO SO LOVE IT WHEN  
A PLAY COMES T'GETHER!

BUT  
THAT'D TAKE  
ME OUT O'  
THE FIGHT AS  
WELL.





ROGUE'S  
CLEARED  
US A PATH,  
COLOSSUS.

TIME TO  
DELIVER THE  
PAY-OFF!

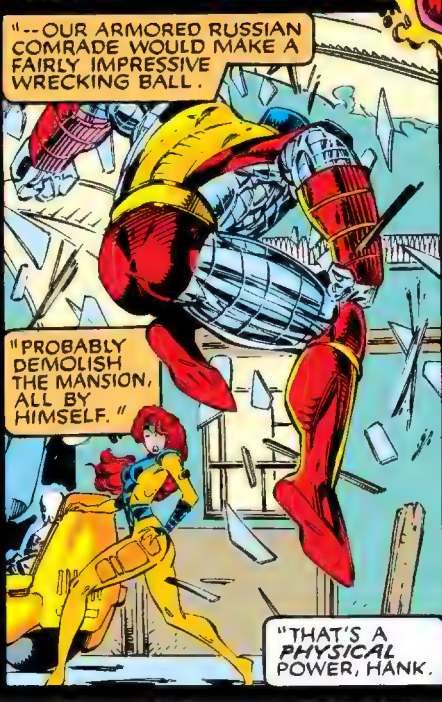
HAVE NO FEAR,  
ARCHANGEL.

I WILL  
DO WHAT  
MUST BE  
DONE.



FOR WHAT  
IT'S WORTH,  
O FEARLESS  
LEADER--

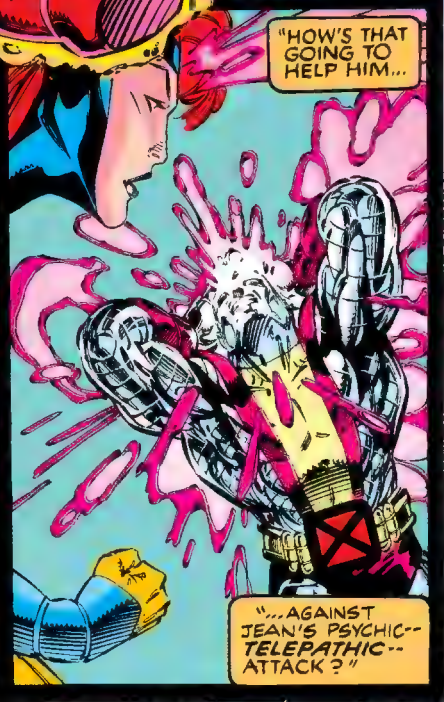
--GIVEN  
ARCH-  
ANGEL'S  
SPEED AND  
COLOSSUS'  
MASS--



"--OUR ARMORED RUSSIAN  
COMRADE WOULD MAKE A  
FAIRLY IMPRESSIVE  
WRECKING BALL."

"PROBABLY  
DEMOLISH  
THE MANSION,  
ALL BY  
HIMSELF."

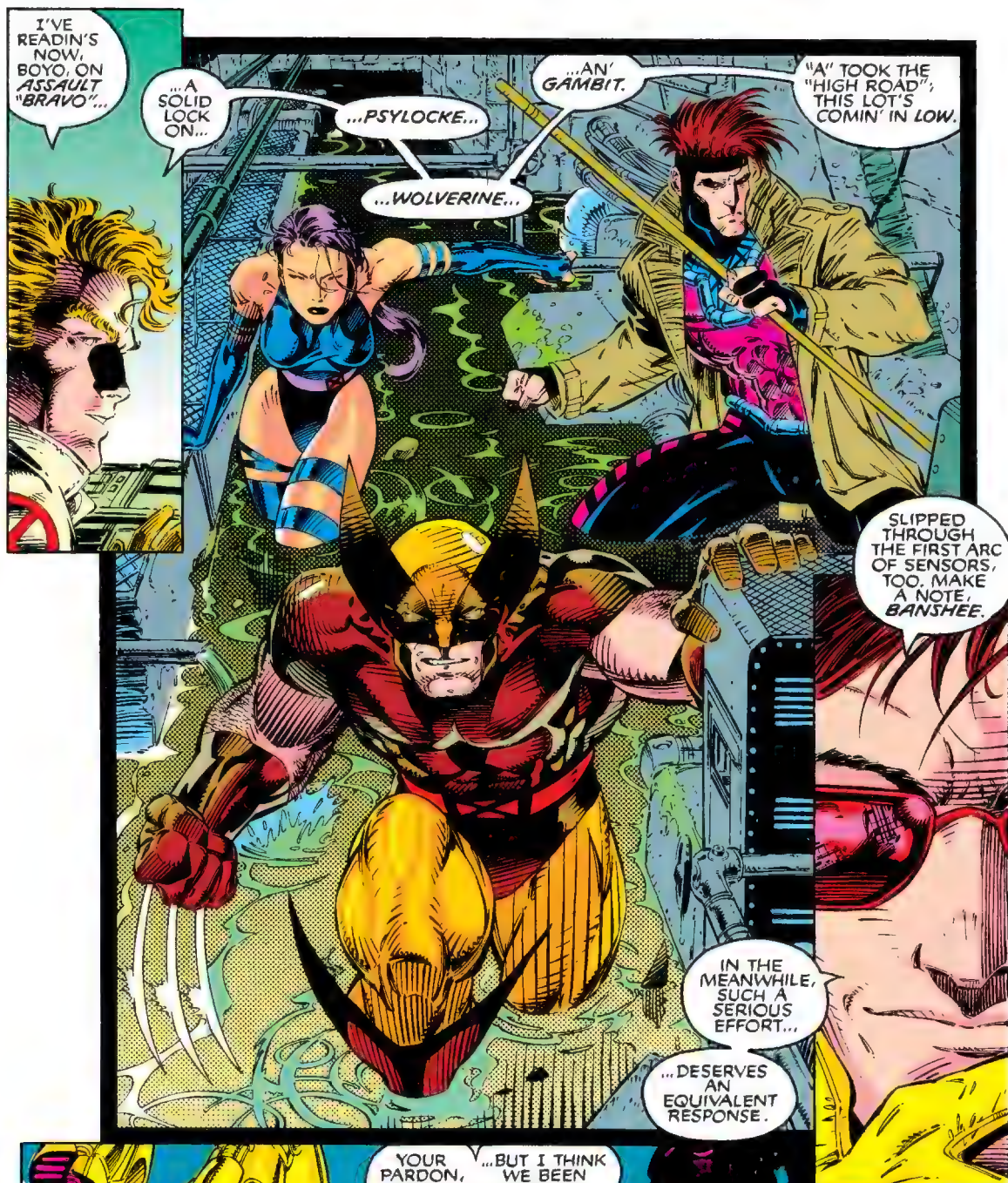
"THAT'S A  
PHYSICAL  
POWER, HANK."



"HOW'S THAT  
GOING TO  
HELP HIM..."

"...AGAINST  
JEAN'S PSYCHIC--  
TELEPATHIC--  
ATTACK?"









SO DON'T  
JUST  
STAND  
THERE  
LOOKIN'  
PRETTY,  
CAJUN...

...ACE THESE  
SUCKERS!

I FEAR, MY  
FRIEND...

...YOUR  
ADMNITION  
IS A WASTE  
OF BREATH.

AWFULLY CONSIDER-  
ATE OF  
CYCLOPS,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK...

...TO FACE US  
WITH OPPOSITION  
THAT EVEN MY  
PHYSICAL STRENGTH  
IS CAPABLE OF  
DISABLING.

MAN'S  
ALL HEART,  
BETTS.

AS MUCH  
AS GAMBIT  
IS BRASS.

WE'RE S'POSED  
T' BE WORKIN'  
T'GETHER, AS A  
TEAM!

BUT WHAT  
THE HECK...

...MAN  
WANTS  
TO PLAY  
LONE-  
WOLF...

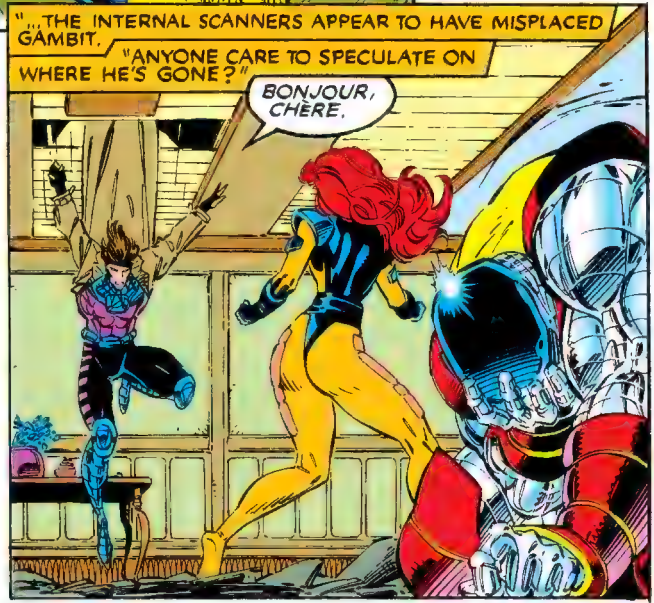


"...HE CAN TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES."

ROGUE EVADED THE  
FIRST WAVE OF MISSILES,  
O FEARLESS, AND TOOK  
OUT THEIR LAUNCHERS...

...BUT NOT  
THE SECOND.  
SHE'S DOWN  
AND OUT.

POSITIVE  
TRACK STILL ON  
WOLVERINE AND  
PSYLOCKE. HOWEVER...



"...THE INTERNAL SCANNERS APPEAR TO HAVE MISPLACED  
GAMBIT. "ANYONE CARE TO SPECULATE ON  
WHERE HE'S GONE?"

BONJOUR,  
CHERE.



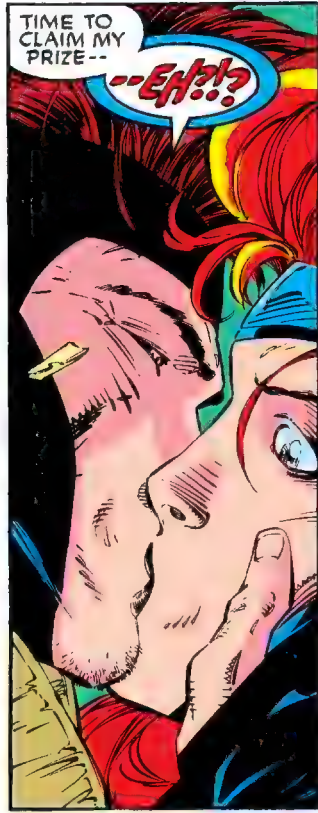
WITH A SPEED THAT  
DEFIES DESCRIPTION,  
AND A SMILE GUARAN-  
TEED TO MELT THE  
FIERCEST HEART...

...THE ACADIAN DRAWS  
A PLAYING CARD FROM  
THE DECK HE ALWAYS  
CARRIES.

IN ONE SMOOTH  
MOVEMENT, HE  
CHARGES IT WITH  
KINETIC ENERGY  
(HIS MUTANT  
POWER) AND  
LETS IT FLY.

ON IMPACT, THE  
WALL BEHIND  
JEAN DETONATES  
WITH THE FORCE  
OF A SMALL BOMB.

LA TOURNEMENT  
EST FINIT, CHERE.  
I WIN.







AS I ALWAYS  
SUSPECTED...

...REDHEADS, THEY  
HAVE A DYNAMITE  
KISS.



...MIGHT I  
REMINDE  
YOU ALL...

...THAT THE  
EXERCISE IS  
FAR FROM...



AT YOUR  
OWN  
RISK, MY  
FRIEND.

I MUST CONFESS,  
INFURIATING AND  
ARROGANT AS  
GAMBIT CAN BE...

...THOSE EYES, THAT  
GRIN, THE BODY-- IT  
TAKES A GIRL'S  
BREATH AWAY.

Oh,  
REALLY?

WHEN NEXT THE  
OPPORTUNITY PRE-  
SENTS ITSELF...

...REMINDE  
ME TO DROP  
A TRUCK  
ON HIM.

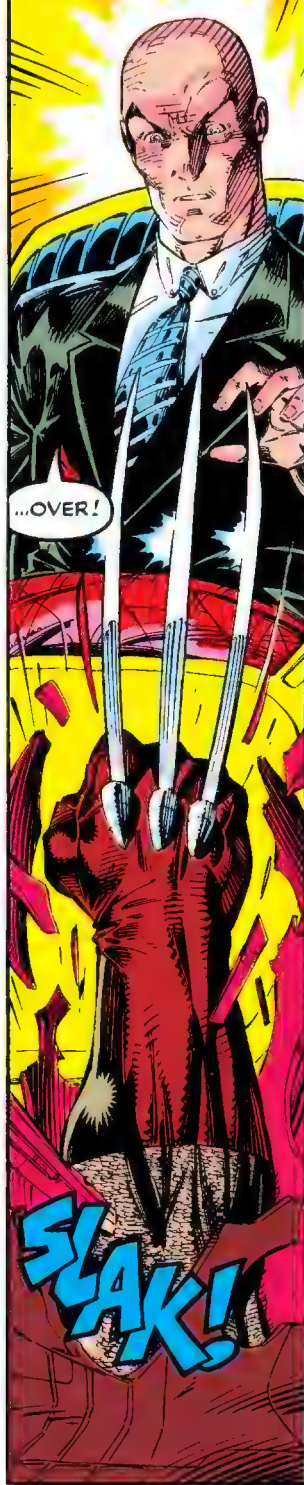
CYCLOPS.

A BIG  
TRUCK.

CYCLOPS!

A REALLY  
BIG  
TRUCK.

CYCLOPS!



...OVER!

SLAK!



NOT TO WORRY,  
PROFESSOR.

WHILE YOU  
WERE AWAY,  
OL' FEARLESS  
HERE  
MASTERED  
THE ART...

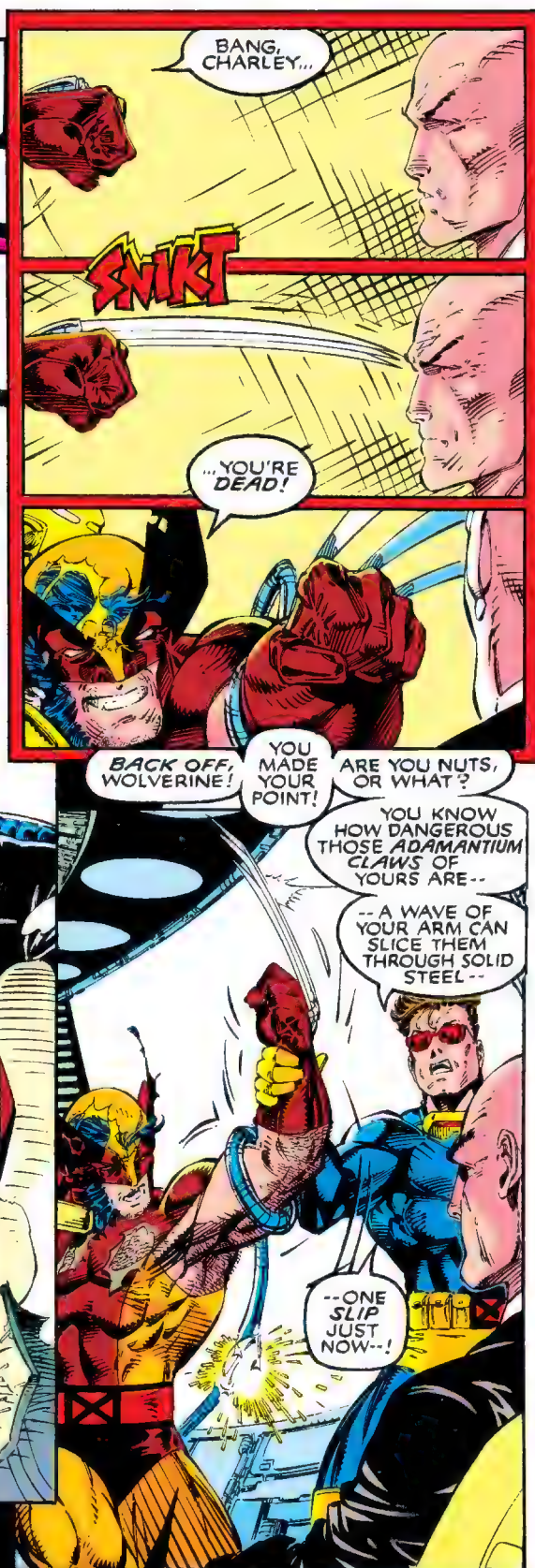
...OF  
DEADPAN  
HUMOR.

KEEP CALLING  
ME THAT,  
FURBALL...

...I'LL SHOW YOU  
"DEADPAN."

BANTER  
NOTWITH-  
STANDING,  
X-MEN...







I DON'T "SLIP", BUB.

EXERCISE WAS TO "TAG" THE PROF. THAT'S JUST WHAT I DID. YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

EVEN USED SOME TEAMWORK TO DO IT. WHILE YOU WERE ALL WATCHIN' GAMBIT MAKE A MODERATE FOOL OF HIMSELF...

...PSYLOCKE WAS ABLE TO USE HER PSI-POWERS TO MASK ME FROM JEAN'S...

...LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO THE JOB.

MAN, I USED TO THINK THE ORIGINAL DANGER ROOM WAS IMPRESSIVE.

NO COMPARISON. WINGS, THIS IS STATE OF THE ART.

IT'LL REPLICATE ANY ENVIRONMENT AND SITUATION WE CAN IMAGINE.

IN A LOT OF WAYS, AN ILLUSION MORE REAL THAN LIFE ITSELF.

ME, I WOULDN'T MIND SOME REAL LIFE FOR A CHANGE. I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN BUSTING OUR BUTTS FOR DAYS!

"WHEN'S IT GOING TO END?"

WHEN WE GET IT RIGHT, ICEMAN.

THE WORLD'S CHANGED, PEOPLE. THE STAKES ARE HIGHER, THE DANGERS GREATER. WE HAVE TO BE EQUAL TO THEM.

SAVE THE SPEECH, SUMMERS. WE'RE NONE OF US KIDS, WE KNOW OUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

YOU WANT TO RUN MORE SCENARIOS, CALL UP MY DANGER ROOM DOPPELGÄNGER FROM THE MASTER COMPUTER FILE.

ME, I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO.

THAT IDIOT--! SOME THINGS, I GUESS, NEVER CHANGE.

THAT'S A FACT.



LATER...

...ASTEROID M IS STILL CLOAKED BUT WE THINK IT'S STILL HOLDING ORBIT OVER THE EURASIAN HEMISPHERE.

SOVIETS AIN'T AT ALL HAPPY ABOUT THAT. THEY'VE PLEDGED NOT TO ACT UNLESS PROVOKED...

...BUT THEY'RE ON A HAIR-TRIGGER THRESHOLD.

WHY?

WHAT'S HE DONE?!

A FIGHT STARTED ON HIS DOORSTEP, HE PUT A STOP TO IT. FAR AS ANYONE KNOWS, ALL THE SURVIVORS ARE PRETTY MUCH OKAY.

WAY YOU TALK, NICHOLAS, FOLKS EXPECT HIM TO START NUKIN' MAMA RUSSIA ANY MOMENT.

THERE'S PRECEDENT FOR THEIR CONCERN, ROGUE.

AND FOR GIVING HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, SCOTT. REMEMBER, HE WAS OUR ALLY.

NO FOOLIN'?. AN' THERE, I THOUGHT ALL THIS TIME MAGNETO WAS A MAN.

WE'VE ALL GOT SHADOWS IN OUR PAST...

THE ONE INDISPUTABLE REALITY, WOLVERINE, IS THE **POWER** MAGNETO POSSESSES. WHETHER USED FOR GOOD OR ILL, IT MUST BE RESPECTED.

AND WHILE I HOPE FERVENTLY FOR THE ONE...

...WE MUST BE FULLY PREPARED TO CONFRONT THE OTHER.

AND BEFORE THAT, STORM, THE X-MEN'S OLDEST, DEADLIEST FOE. LEOPARDS DON'T CHANGE THEIR SPOTS.

...WE'VE ALL BEEN BRANDED OUTLAWS.

I ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL, CYCLOPS, TO SPLIT THE X-MEN INTO TWO STRIKE TEAMS.

THAT WILL ALLOW US A GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN OUR RESPONSE TO ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

IN THE MEANWHILE, COLONEL FURY, WE WILL SEARCH OUR FILES FOR ANY DATA ON MAGNETO THAT MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL. SHOULD YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE...

I KNOW THE NUMBER.

KEEP OUR FINGERS CROSSED...



"...MAYBE  
I WON'T  
NEED TO  
USE IT."

WHERE THE  
DEVIL--?!

ASTEROID M, DEKE,  
HAS TO BE!

WHEN MAGNETO  
SMASHED OUR  
SHUTTLE, HE MUST'VE  
BROUGHT US ABOARD!

A MORE  
GENEROUS--  
FOOLISH  
GESTURE--

...THAN ANY  
OF **UPROK!**

THOSE WERE GOOD  
PEOPLE YOU KILLED  
ON MY WINGSHIP,  
MUTIE...

... AND GOOD  
ONES YOU KILLED  
ON THE GROUND  
WHEN YOU STOLE  
THAT SHUTTLE.

WHATEVER  
IT TAKES, I'LL  
SEE YOU PAY  
FOR THAT!

UNLIKELY,  
FLATSCAN,  
ONCE I--

-- MY  
POWER?!

NOTHING'S  
HAPPENING?!?

NOW AIN'T THAT  
A CRYIN' SHAME!

I GOT  
HER,  
HARRY!

BIG MAN MUST'VE  
ESTABLISHED AN  
INHIBITOR FIELD,  
TO NEUTRALIZE ANY  
SUPER-BEINGS OR  
MUTANTS WHO  
COME CALLING.

PROBABLY  
DOES THE  
SAME TO  
STANDARD  
COMBAT  
ARMOR.

UNFORTUNATELY,  
OUR SUITS WERE  
DESIGNED WITH  
PRECISELY THAT  
LIKELIHOOD  
IN MIND.

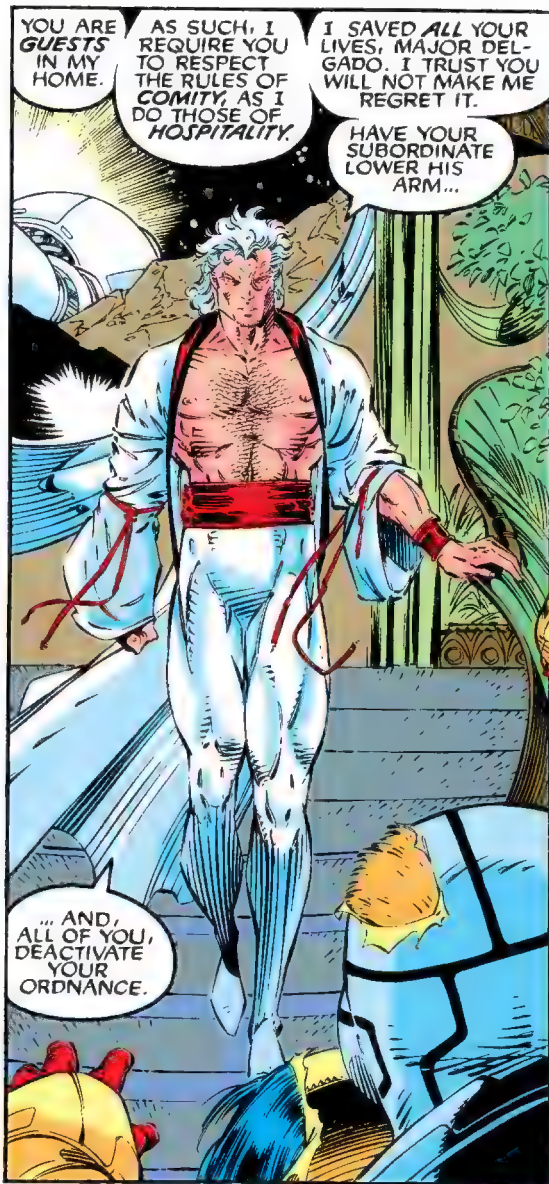
THE WEAPONS  
SYSTEMS, AS YOU  
CAN SEE, ARE  
QUITE ACTIVE.

EVERYBODY RELAX,  
EVERYBODY BEHAVE.

THE  
SITUATION'S  
UNDER  
CONTROL.

WHAT IS THE  
MEANING  
OF THIS?!





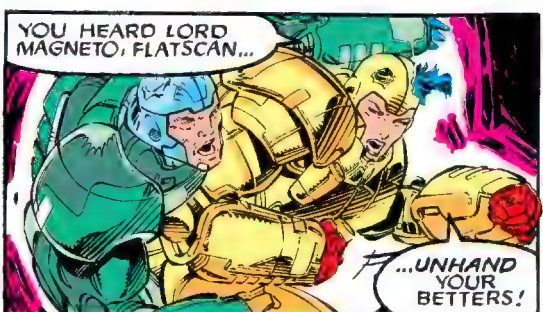
YOU ARE GUESTS IN MY HOME.

AS SUCH, I REQUIRE YOU TO RESPECT THE RULES OF COMITY, AS I DO THOSE OF HOSPITALITY.

I SAVED ALL YOUR LIVES, MAJOR DELGADO. I TRUST YOU WILL NOT MAKE ME REGRET IT.

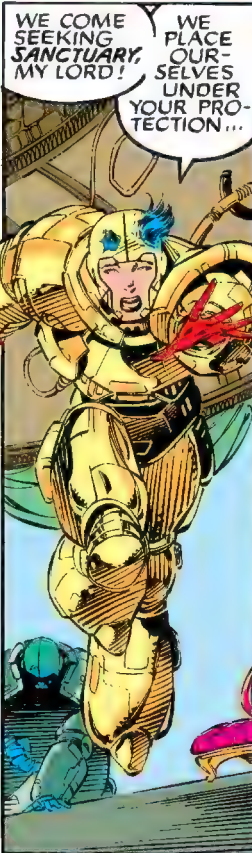
HAVE YOUR SUBORDINATE LOWER HIS ARM...

... AND, ALL OF YOU, DEACTIVATE YOUR ORDNANCE.



YOU HEARD LORD MAGNETO, FLATSCAN...

...UNHAND YOUR BETTERS!



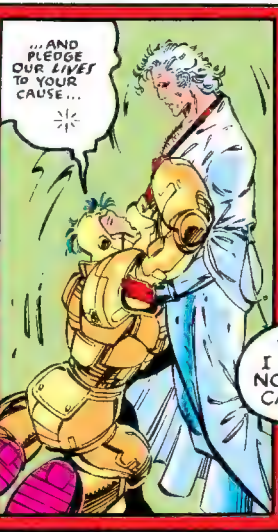
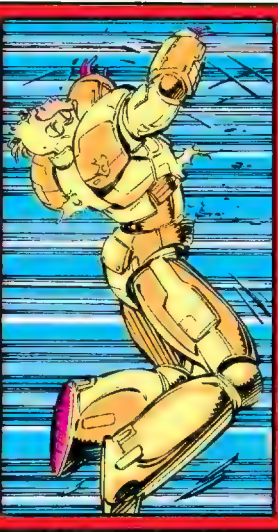
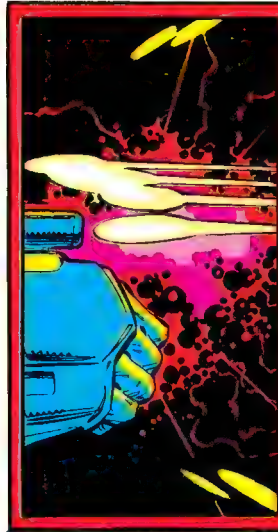
WE COME SEEKING SANCTUARY, MY LORD!

WE PLACE OURSELVES UNDER YOUR PROTECTION...



LIKE HECK YOU WILL!

DEKE-- NO-- DON'T!



... AND PLEDGE OUR LIVES TO YOUR CAUSE...



BUT... I HAVE NO MORE CAUSE.



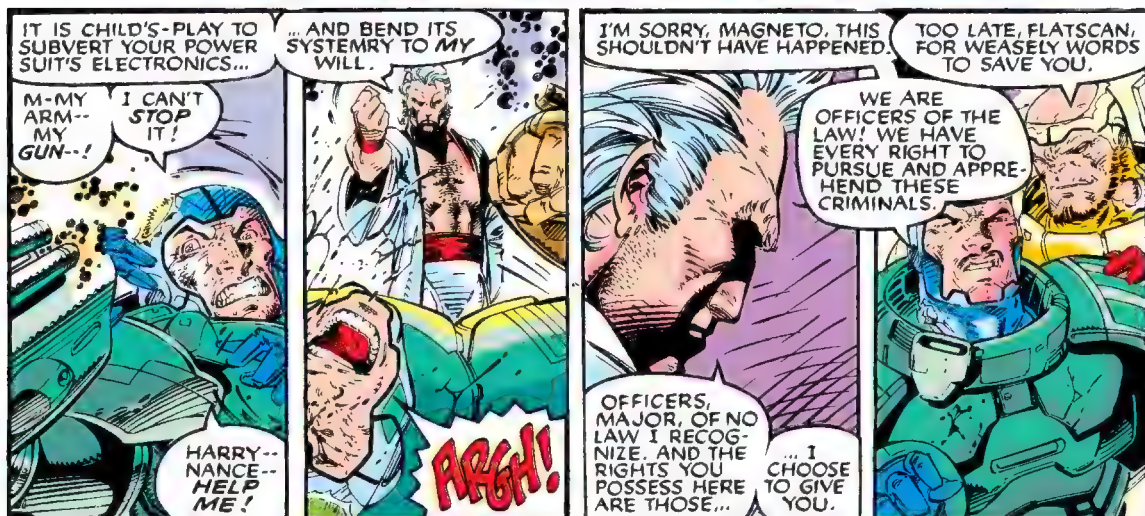


I WARNED YOU!

YOUR MECHANISMS ARE QUITE IMPRESSIVELY SHIELDED, THAT IS TRUE.

BUT I AM THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM.

I DRAW ON THE PRIMAL FORCES OF THE EARTH ITSELF.



IT IS CHILD'S-PLAY TO SUBVERT YOUR POWER SUIT'S ELECTRONICS...

...AND BEND ITS SYSTEMRY TO MY WILL.

I'M SORRY, MAGNETO. THIS SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

TOO LATE, FLATSCAN, FOR WEASELY WORDS TO SAVE YOU.

M-MY ARM-- MY GUN--!

I CAN'T STOP IT!

HARRY-- NANCE-- HELP ME!

ARGH!

OFFICERS, MAJOR, OF NO LAW I RECOGNIZE, AND THE RIGHTS YOU POSSESS HERE ARE THOSE...

... I CHOOSE TO GIVE YOU.



BEGINNING WITH THE RIGHT TO LIFE.

DREAD LORD, I AM FABIAN CORTEZ.

FORGIVE MY INTRUSION, I SHARE YOUR GRIEF, ANNEMARIE WAS A VALUED COMRADE...

... BUT YOU MUST KNOW THE GREAT POWERS BELOW WILL OF A CERTAINTY REACT TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE.

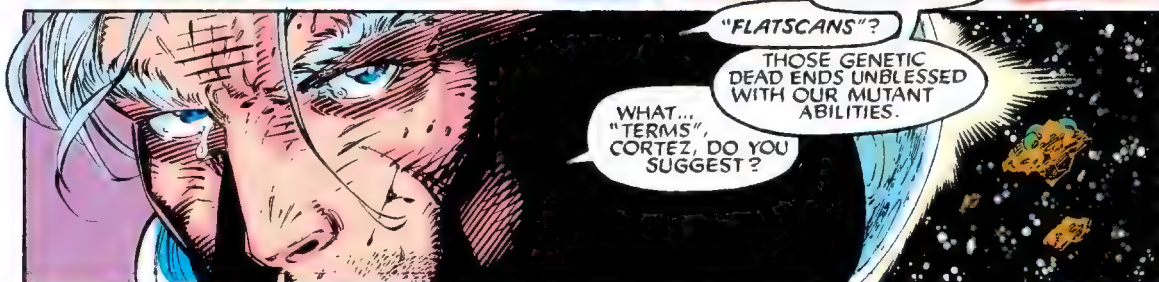
LORD, WE KNOW YOUR STRENGTH IS A MATCH FOR ANY POWERS THEY MARSHAL AGAINST YOU, BUT ALL THEY WILL SEE IS A LONE MAN.

FOR DETERANCE TO BE CREDIBLE...

IF YOU VALUE IT, KEEP SILENT.

THEY WILL DO SO TO THEIR REGRET.

...IT MUST BE COUCHED IN TERMS THOSE FLATSCANS UNDERSTAND.

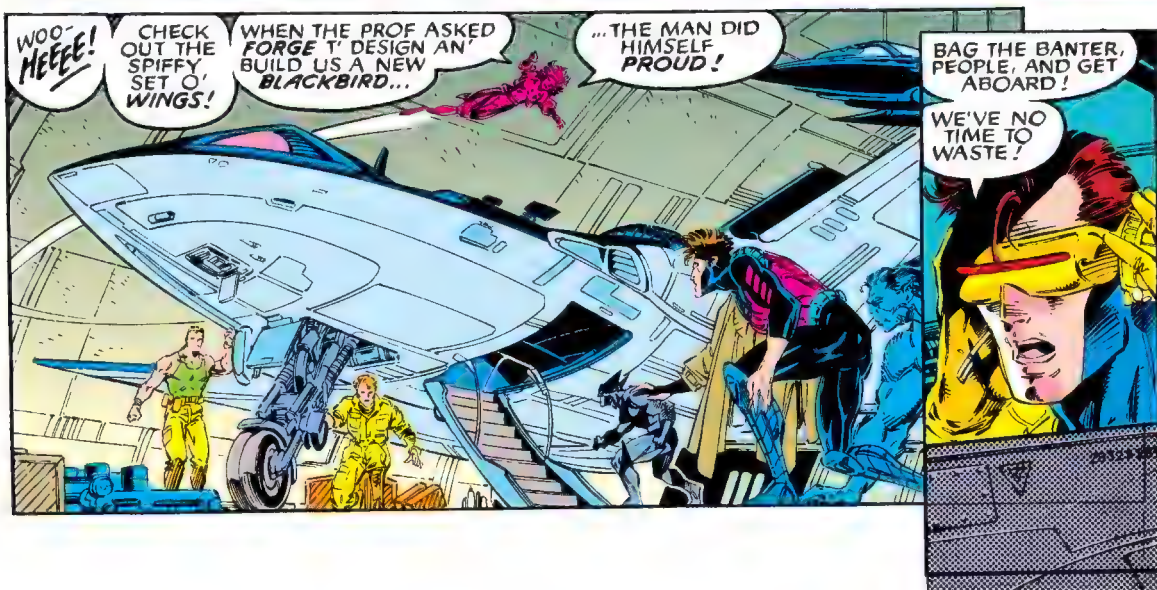
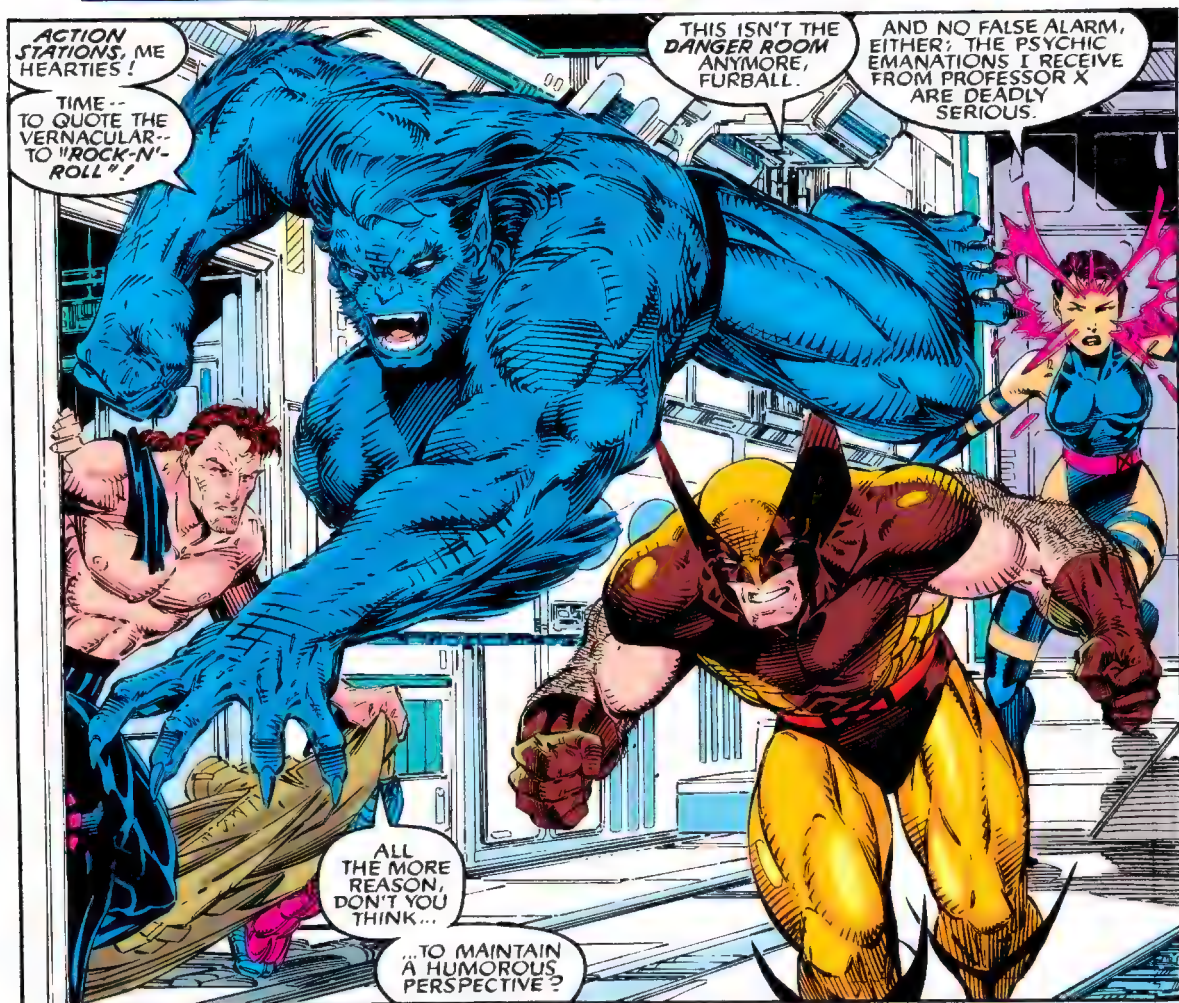
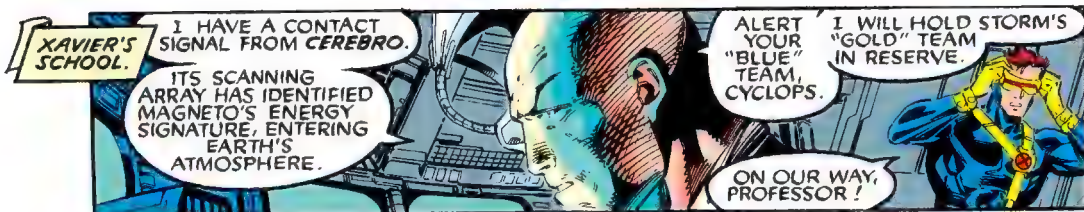


"FLATSCANS"?

WHAT... "TERMS", CORTEZ, DO YOU SUGGEST?

THOSE GENETIC DEAD ENDS UNBLESSED WITH OUR MUTANT ABILITIES.







"PROF SAYS  
SOMETHING  
**BIG** IS  
HAPPENING  
IN MID-  
ATLANTIC!"

MOMENTS AGO,  
HE STOOD AT  
THE BOTTOM OF  
THE OCEAN...

...LITERALLY MILES BENEATH ITS  
SURFACE, IN A REALM OF AWFUL  
DARKNESS AND ABYSMAL COLD,  
AS ALIEN AND HOSTILE AS ANY  
FOREIGN PLANET.

STOOD AND  
STARED AT HIS  
HANDIWORK.

AND REMEMBERED...

...A DAY LONG PAST  
WHEN, IN HIS ARRO-  
GANCE, HE COMMANDED  
THE GREAT POWERS  
OF THE WORLD TO  
DISARM THEIR  
NUCLEAR ARSENALS.

HIS GOAL WAS NOBLE, OR  
SO HE THOUGHT, TO  
REMOVE FOREVER FROM  
ALL PEOPLE-- MUTANTS  
AND BASELINE HUMANS--  
THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR  
ANNIHILATION.

THE GOVERNMENTS  
HE CHALLENGED  
DIDN'T SEE IT  
THAT WAY.

THE SOVIET  
UNION ORDERED  
AN IMMEDIATE  
COUNTER-STRIKE...

...FROM THE  
FLEET  
BALLISTIC  
MISSILE  
SUBMARINE  
LENINGRAD.

HE DEFLECTED  
THE ATTACK...

... AND  
THEN,  
AS AN  
OBJECT  
LESSON...

...SANK THE  
VESSEL THAT  
LAUNCHED IT.



WATER PRESSURE CRUSHED THE SUB-MARINE'S HULL...

...BUT NOT SO THE LAUNCH TUBES OF CASE-HARDENED STEEL.

SOME OF THE MISSILES WERE DAMAGED, BUT A SURPRISING NUMBER HE DISCOVERS REMAIN INTACT.

BEEN A WHILE, MAGNETO.

NEVER CALLED, NEVER WROTE, AH WAS STARTIN' T' FIGURE YOU'D FORGOTTEN ALL 'BOUT ME.

THAT'S NO WAY FOR FRIENDS TO ACT.

HELLO, ROGUE.

YOU RAISE THIS WRECK OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF YOUR HEART, MAGS--

--FIGURIN' MAYBE T' GIVE THESE SAILOR BOYS A DECENT BURIAL--

--OR WHAT?

I SUNK LENINGRAD AS AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE, WOLVERINE.

I RESURRECT IT FOR THE SAME REASON.

WE DON'T THREATEN YOU, MAGNETO, NOBODY DOES.

AND NOW, CHILD, NOBODY WILL.

OR WHAT, YOU GONNA NUKE 'EM?

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT CONSIDERS HIMSELF A PRUDENT MAN...

...WHO PERHAPS PRAYS FOR THE BEST, BUT IS ALWAYS READY FOR THE WORST.

I AM NO DIFFERENT.



THAT, CYCLOPS, IS QUITE CLOSE ENOUGH.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER, HOWEVER, THAT WERE I THE CONSUMMATE VILLAIN YOU DEVOUTLY BELIEVE ME TO BE...

...I WOULD DESTROY YOUR PRETTY NEW AIRCRAFT...

... INSTEAD OF SIMPLY FREEZING IT IN PLACE!

DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.

GREAT!

I STAND CORRECT-ED!

NOW HOW ABOUT ONE OF YOUR PATENTED FIFTY MOVES...

...TO HELP US OUT OF THIS MESS!

AS EVER, FEARLESS, YOUR WISH...!

STICK WITH ME, GAMBIT, WATCH AND LEARN.

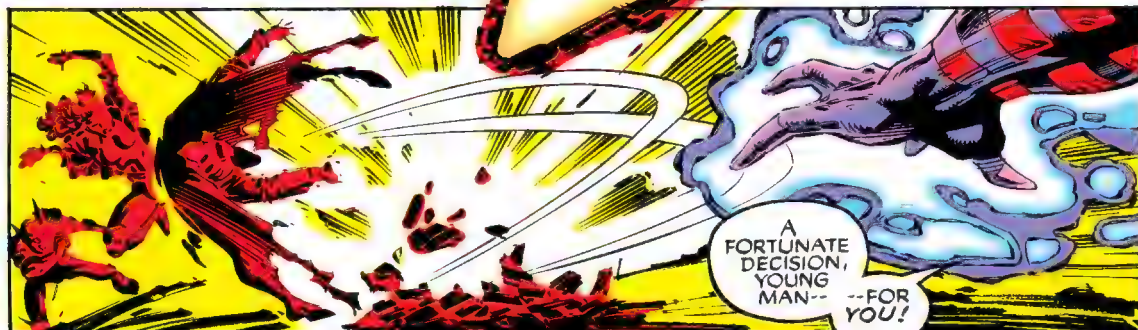
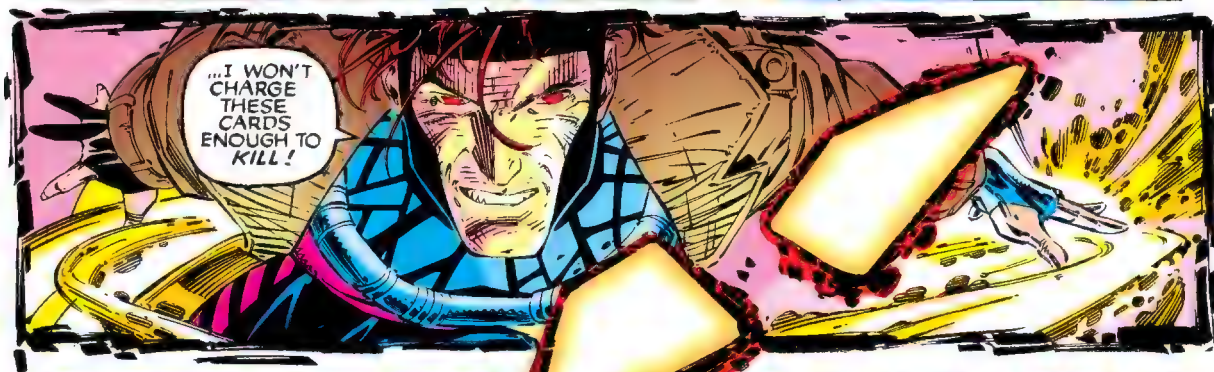
SNAPPY PATTTER, MON AMI, I CAN PROVIDE BY MYSELF.

WORDS ARE BUT THE ACCENTS TO ACTION--

-- WHICH, IN THIS CASE, CONSISTS OF DISTRACTING OUR FOE SUFFICIENTLY...

... FOR OUR BLACKBIRD TO SLIP FREE OF HIS MAGNETIC FORCE BUBBLE.









**GOT HIM!**

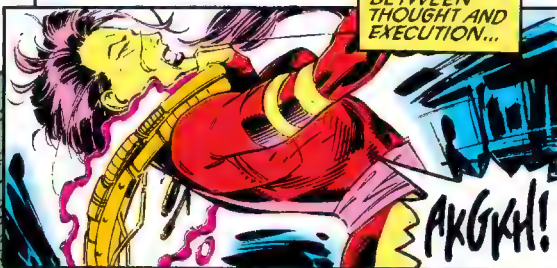
BLAST! HIS COSTUME IS A FORM OF BODY ARMOR-- THAT, COMBINED WITH HIS HELMET...

...BLUNTED THE FORCE OF MY ATTACK!

I'VE MANIFESTED MY PSYCHIC KNIFE-- THE FOCUSED TOTALITY OF MY TELEPATHIC ABILITIES--

-- ONE STRIKE SHOULD RENDER MAGNETO INSENSIBLE--!

BUT, IN THE SPLIT-SECOND BETWEEN THOUGHT AND EXECUTION...



**AKGK!**

HAVE YOU X-MEN ALL GONE MAD?!

I SAID I MEANT YOU NO HARM, WHY DO YOU ASSAULT ME--

**--GOOD LORD!**

MAYBE 'CAUSE THE WORDS DON'T MATTER...

AS MUCH AS THE HEART AN' SOUL OF THE PERSON SPEAKIN' 'EM!

WOLVERINE WASN'T HOLDING BACK, THAT WAS A KILLING ATTACK!

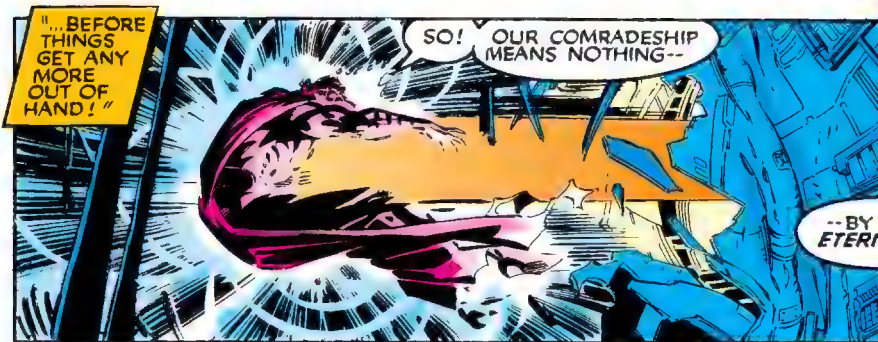
I REMEMBER THE SIGNS FROM THE TIME WE FIRST MET--

--HE'S ON THE VERGE OF A BERSERKER FURY!

THINGS WEREN'T MEANT TO GO LIKE THIS, AND I'M PARTLY TO BLAME.

I HAVE TO SEPARATE THEM...

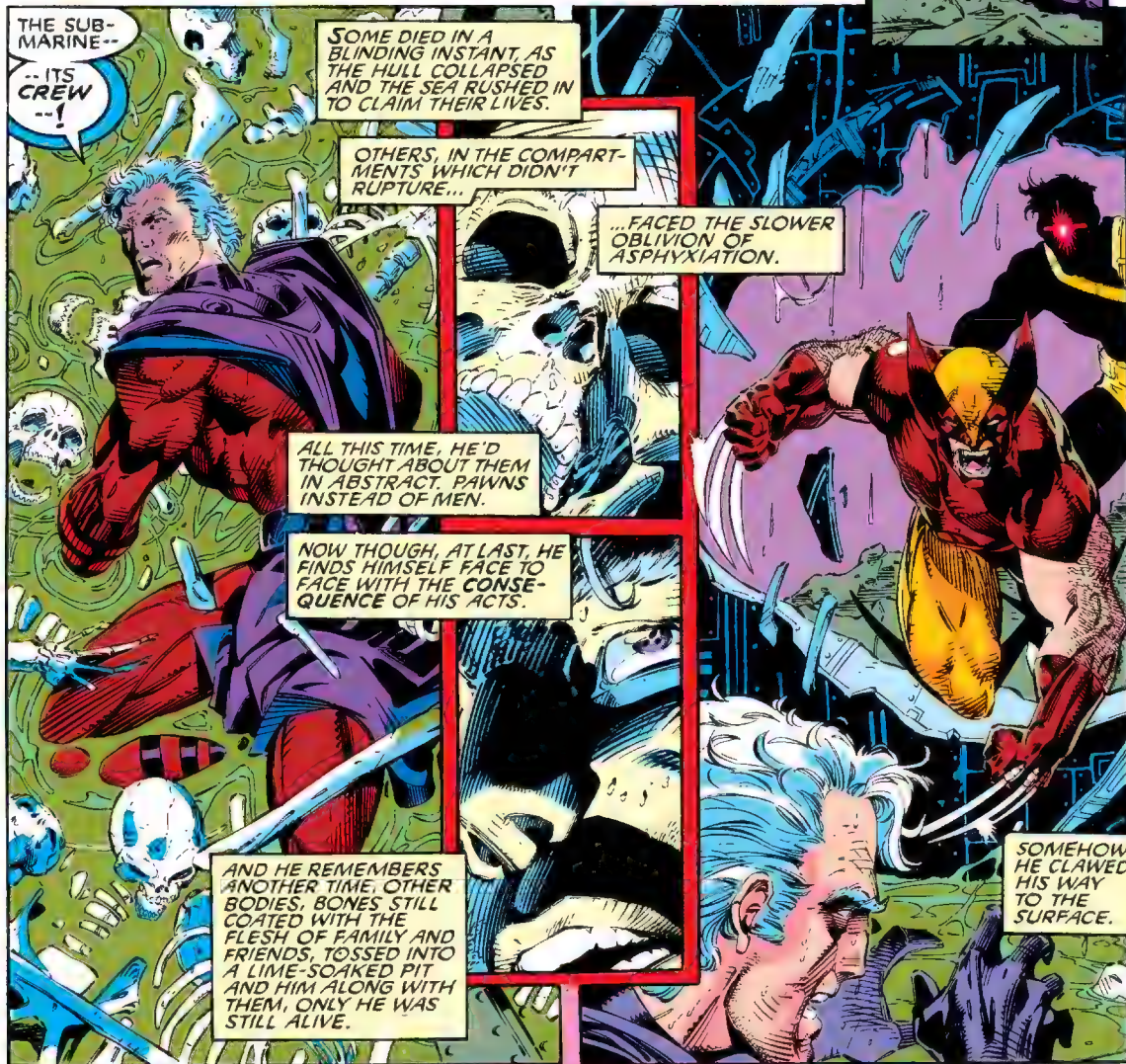




"...BEFORE THINGS GET ANY MORE OUT OF HAND!"

SO! OUR COMRADESHIP MEANS NOTHING--

--BY THE ETERNAL!?!



THE SUB-MARINE--

--ITS CREW--

SOME DIED IN A BLINDING INSTANT, AS THE HULL COLLAPSED AND THE SEA RUSHED IN TO CLAIM THEIR LIVES.

OTHERS, IN THE COMPARTMENTS WHICH DIDN'T RUPTURE...

...FACED THE SLOWER OBLIVION OF ASPHYXIATION.

ALL THIS TIME, HE'D THOUGHT ABOUT THEM IN ABSTRACT. PAWNS INSTEAD OF MEN.

NOW THOUGH, AT LAST, HE FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH THE CONSEQUENCE OF HIS ACTS.

AND HE REMEMBERS ANOTHER TIME, OTHER BODIES, BONES STILL COATED WITH THE FLESH OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, TOSSED INTO A LIME-SOAKED PIT AND HIM ALONG WITH THEM, ONLY HE WAS STILL ALIVE.



SOMEHOW, HE CLAWED HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE.

HIS WILL TO SURVIVE AS INDOMITABLE THEN AS NOW.

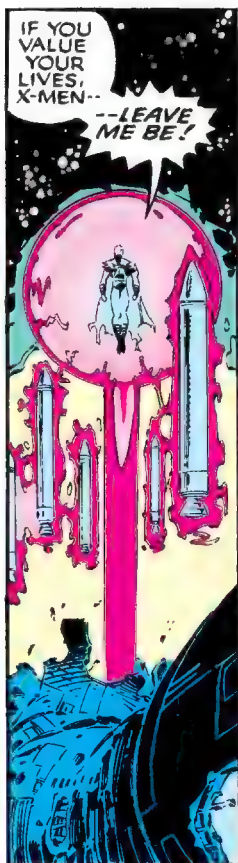


YOU CHOOSE TO SEE ME SOLELY AS THE MAN I WAS.

IS THAT THEN WHAT I AM?!

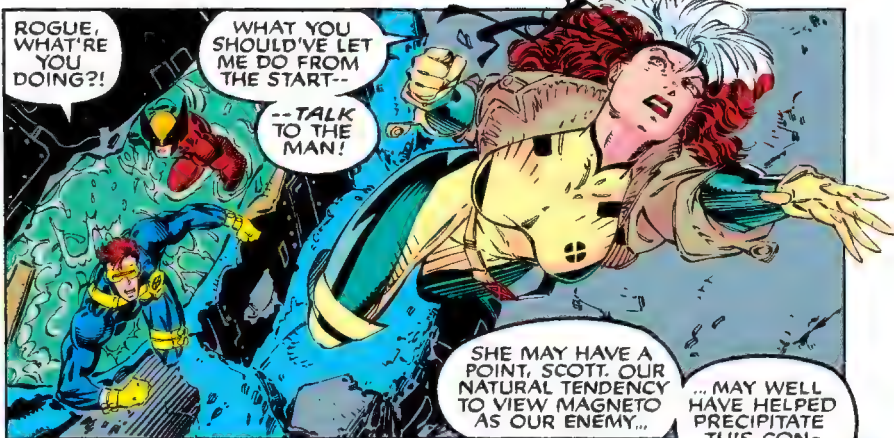
STAY AWAY!





IF YOU  
VALUE  
YOUR  
LIVES,  
X-MEN--

--LEAVE  
ME BE!



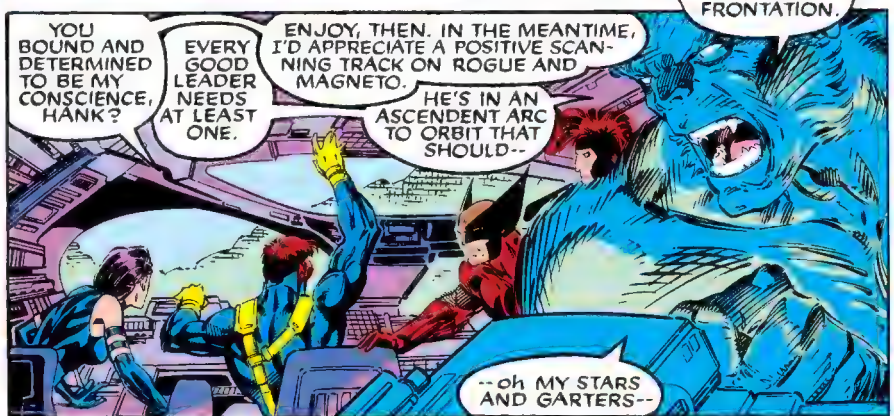
ROGUE,  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOING?!

WHAT YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
LET  
ME DO FROM  
THE START--

--TALK  
TO THE  
MAN!

SHE MAY HAVE A  
POINT, SCOTT. OUR  
NATURAL TENDENCY  
TO VIEW MAGNETO  
AS OUR ENEMY...

...MAY WELL  
HAVE HELPED  
PRECIPITATE  
THIS CON-  
FRONTATION.



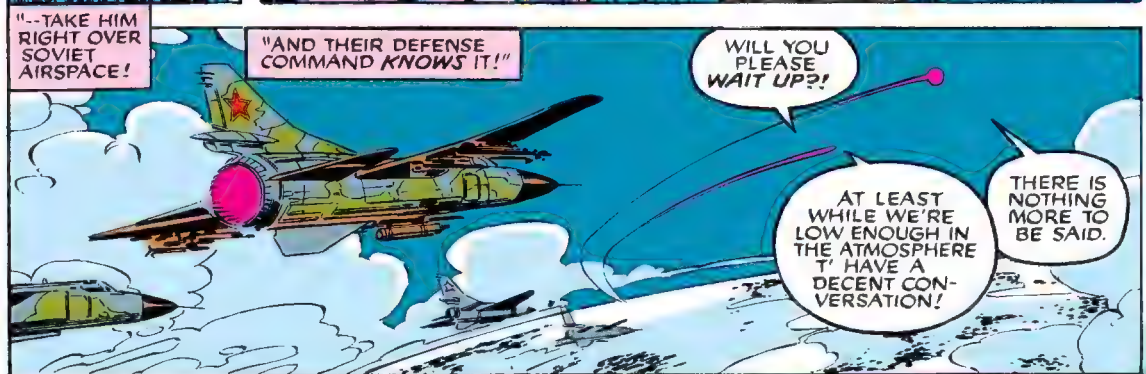
YOU  
BOUND AND  
DETERMINED  
TO BE MY  
CONSCIENCE,  
HANK?

EVERY  
GOOD  
LEADER  
NEEDS  
AT LEAST  
ONE.

ENJOY, THEN. IN THE MEANTIME,  
I'D APPRECIATE A POSITIVE SCANNING  
TRACK ON ROGUE AND  
MAGNETO.

HE'S IN AN  
ASCENDANT ARC  
TO ORBIT THAT  
SHOULD--

--oh MY STARS  
AND GARTERS--



"--TAKE HIM  
RIGHT OVER  
SOVIET  
AIRSPACE!

"AND THEIR DEFENSE  
COMMAND *KNOWS* IT!"

WILL YOU  
PLEASE  
WAIT UP?!

AT LEAST  
WHILE WE'RE  
LOW ENOUGH IN  
THE ATMOSPHERE  
T' HAVE A  
DECENT CON-  
VERSATION!

THERE IS  
NOTHING  
MORE TO  
BE SAID.



GET  
REAL!

WHAT, YOU NEVER  
MADE A MISTAKE IN  
YOUR LIFE? YOU  
NEVER COMMITTED  
AN ACT THAT MIGHT  
SOMEHOW BE MIS-  
INTERPRETED?

MAYBE CYKE HANDLED  
THINGS WRONG.

MAYBE SEEIN'  
YOU ABOUT TO  
HAUL OFF A  
CARGO OF NUKES  
GAVE HIM  
CAUSE!

DON'T YOU  
SEE?!  
YOU'VE GOT  
EV'RYBODY  
SPOOKED!



MAGNETO. MOSTLY FOLKS KNOW YOU AS THE WORLD-CLASS MUTIE TERRORIST. YOU'RE THE **BOOGIE-MAN** THAT'S USED TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE ABOUT US.

BY ACTIN' THE WAY YOU ARE NOW...

...YOU'RE PROVIN' 'EM RIGHT!

I TRIED TO CHANGE, I DID MY BEST TO FOLLOW XAVIER'S PATH TO A PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN *HOMO SAPIENS* AND *HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR*.

AND PAID FOR THAT FOLLY WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS.

"SO YOU FIGURE, WHAT THERE'S NOTHIN' GOOD CAN COME O' THIS, AH MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP?"

YOU EVER CONSIDER, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY A LITTLE HARDER!

**ARRGH! ROGUE!**

THERE IS YOUR ANSWER, CHILD, AND MINE!

WHATEVER WE DECIDE, THE WORLD WILL NEVER ACCEPT US.

THEY MEAN ONLY OUR DESTRUCTION, AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A SPECIES!

BUT AT LEAST HERE, I CAN SAVE ONE!

MY LORD DEAR LORD NO!

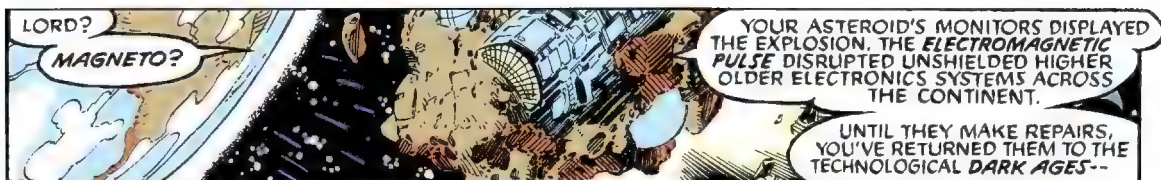
HANK, WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHAT'S THAT FLASH?

AN UPPER-ATMOSPHERE NUCLEAR DETONATION, AT LEAST A MEGATON IN YIELD.

MAGNETO'S FIRED ONE OF THE MISSILES.

BUT-- WHAT ABOUT ROGUE?!!





LORD?

MAGNETO?

YOUR ASTEROID'S MONITORS DISPLAYED THE EXPLOSION. THE **ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE** DISRUPTED UNSHIELDED HIGHER OLDER ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

UNTIL THEY MAKE REPAIRS, YOU'VE RETURNED THEM TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL DARK AGES--



--LORD?!  
MAGNETO--  
YOU'RE  
HURT!

WOLVERINE'S  
CLAWS.

THAT  
DEVIL!

I THOUGHT MY ARMOR PROOF AGAINST ANY ASSAULT. ON THE OTHER HAND, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IT PREVENTED THE X-MAN'S CLAWS FROM CUTTING DEEPER.

THERE WAS NO  
HESITATION IN  
HIM. NO...  
MERCY.

HAD I NOT WITH-  
DRAWN FROM THE  
FIELD OF COMBAT,  
HE WOULD NOT HAVE  
STOPPED UNTIL ONE  
OF US WAS SLAIN.

WHY THEN HAS HE  
TURNED ON ME?

WHAT HAS  
CHANGED?!

WHY MUST  
**BLOOD**  
ALWAYS COME  
BETWEEN ME  
AND  
OTHERS?

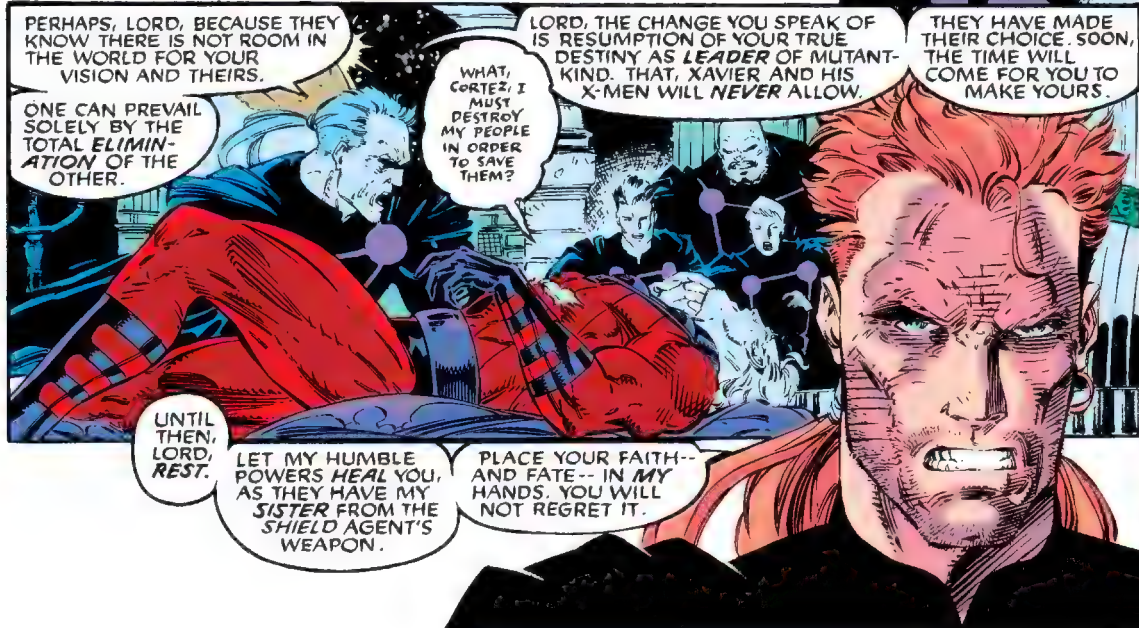
FROM CYCLOPS,  
I EXPECTED THAT.  
HE HAS NEVER  
TRUSTED ME, AND  
NEVER WILL.

BUT  
WOLVERINE...

I HAVE  
FOUGHT BY HIS  
SIDE. FOR THE  
BRIEF TIME I  
WORKED WITH THE  
X-MEN, HE ACCEPTED  
ME WHOLEHEARTEDLY.  
IF NOT AS A FRIEND,  
THEN AT LEAST  
AS A COMRADE-  
IN-ARMS.



KOFF KAFF  
**GAGK**  
KOFF  
KAFF



PERHAPS, LORD, BECAUSE THEY  
KNOW THERE IS NOT ROOM IN  
THE WORLD FOR YOUR  
VISION AND THEIRS.

ONE CAN PREVAIL  
SOLELY BY THE  
TOTAL ELIMIN-  
ATION OF THE  
OTHER.

UNTIL  
THEN,  
LORD,  
REST.

LET MY HUMBLE  
POWERS HEAL YOU,  
AS THEY HAVE MY  
SISTER FROM THE  
SHIELD AGENT'S  
WEAPON.

PLACE YOUR FAITH--  
AND FATE-- IN MY  
HANDS. YOU WILL  
NOT REGRET IT.

LORD, THE CHANGE YOU SPEAK OF  
IS RESUMPTION OF YOUR TRUE  
DESTINY AS **LEADER** OF MUTANT-  
KIND. THAT, XAVIER AND HIS  
X-MEN WILL **NEVER** ALLOW.

WHAT,  
CORTEZ, I  
MUST  
DESTROY  
MY PEOPLE  
IN ORDER  
TO SAVE  
THEM?

THEY HAVE MADE  
THEIR CHOICE. SOON,  
THE TIME WILL  
COME FOR YOU TO  
MAKE YOURS.



THE TERRESTRIAL STRATOSPHERE...

OUR ON-BOARD SENSORS ARE WORKING PERFECTLY, SCOTT. I'M SCANNING TO THE LIMIT OF THEIR RANGE. THERE'S NO SIGN OF ROGUE.

THAT ISN'T HELPFUL, HANK.

I'M AFRAID, CYCLOPS, MY NEWS ISN'T MUCH BETTER.

I HAD A SENSE OF HER CONSCIOUSNESS-- THERE WAS SHOCK AND PAIN, SHE'D JUST BEEN STRUCK...

BY MAGNETO?

POSSIBLY.

BUT I LOST HER IN THE CONFUSION OF THE BLAST.

I BELIEVE SHE MAY BE ALIVE, BUT I HAVEN'T A CLUE WHERE.

X-MEN!

PROFESSOR XAVIER-- CONTACTING US TELEPATHICALLY!

BREAK OFF YOUR SEARCH. I HAVE A LOCATION ON ROGUE. SHE IS ALIVE AND ESSENTIALLY WELL.

YOU PIN-POINTED HER WITH CEREBRO, SIR?

ACTUALLY, CYCLOPS, I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL INFORMING ME OF HER WHEREABOUTS...

...IN THE CITY OF HAMMER BAY...

...CAPITAL OF THE ISLAND NATION OF GENOSHA.

BOOM!

WHOA!

OH! OH!

OW!

SORRY ABOUT THE SMELL, X-MAN. WE HAD TO USE A WHIFF OF AMMONIA TO WAKE YOU.

YOU'RE ANDERSON.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE, YES. YOU REMEMBER ME.

THIS A PRISON HOSPITAL?

THE ORDINARY VARIETY. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, GENOSHA REALLY IS A FREE COUNTRY.

EVEN FOR MUTANTS?

WE NEED YOU, ROGUE. EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HURT.

A SUPER-POWERED TERRORIST CADRE'S STAGING RANDOM ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

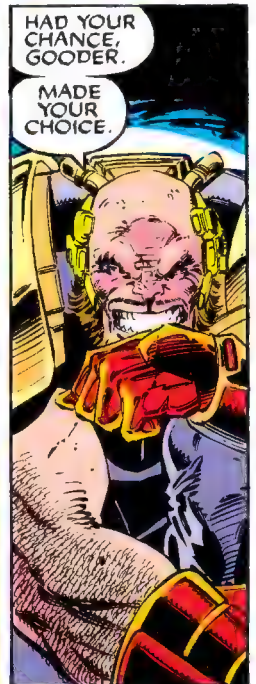
MY MAGISTRATES CAN'T COPE.

YOU SHOULD KNOW, ROGUE, SINCE YOU X-MEN HELPED BRING THAT ABOUT.

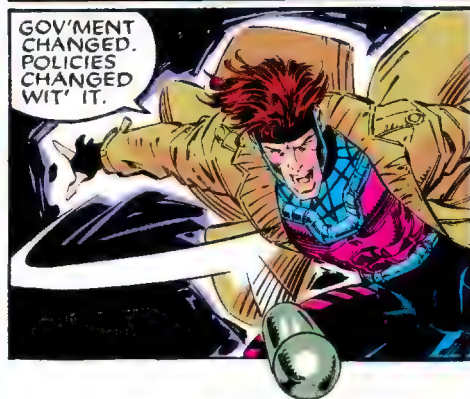
WHAT'S THAT?!

INNOCENT LIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOST.













B'SIDES, WAY WE HEAR YOU TALKIN' T' ROGUE...

...DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU MUCH BETTER.

WE STAND FOR THE ONLY CAUSE WHICH GIVES OUR PEOPLE A DECENT HOPE OF SURVIVAL, X-MAN--

-- THAT OF **MUTANT SUPREMACY!**

WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUMANITY, AND WE WILL NOT BE CHEATED OF OUR RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE!

I'VE ALTERED YOUR MOLECULAR STRUCTURE, DELGADO...

...TO MAKE IT VIRTUALLY AS DENSE AS ADAMANTIUM.

FOR WHAT YOU LOSE IN SPEED AND AGILITY, YOU'LL MAKE UP FOR IN STRENGTH.



"DELGADO"? THERE WAS A MAJOR HARRY DELGADO COMMANDING THE SHIELD PURSUIT FORCE THAT WAS CAPTURED BY MAGNETO.

COINCIDENCE?

DIFFERENT GUY, SAME NAME.

OR MAYBE THE MAJOR WAS A SLEEPER, WORKIN' WITH THE CLOWNS HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY CHASIN'?

OR MAYBE HE SWITCHED SIDES.

OR MAYBE SOMEBODY MADE HIM.

HOWEVER THE MAN CAME HERE, BEAST, HE MEANS BUSINESS.

WE CAN FIGURE OUT THE BACK-STORY AFTER WE TAKE HIM DOWN.





I HAVE THE FLYER!

I COULD MORE EASILY DO THIS TELEPATHICALLY, FROM A DISTANCE.

BUT I LIKE THE THRILL OF PHYSICAL COMBAT.

"LIKE IT"-- I CRAVE IT. HOW DOES WOLVERINE CALL IT-- AM I AN "ACTION JUNKIE"?

SOMETHING TO WATCH OUT FOR.

IT'S A TEMPTATION A FOE COULD LEARN TO USE AGAINST ME.

POOR DEAR. I CLOUDED HIS MIND JUST ENOUGH...

...TO MAKE HIM THINK HE WAS RACING FOR OPEN SKY.

THE IMPACT ISN'T FATAL, BUT AFTER ALL THE HARM THESE WRETCHES HAVE ALREADY CAUSED, I DEARLY HOPE IT HURTS.

I CAN'T PLACE THE FACE, BUT YOUR SCENT'S AWFULLY FAMILIAR.

GIVEN THE CHEAP CIGARS YOU FAVOR, MISANTHROPE...

...I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN SMELL ANYTHING AT ALL.

WOLVERINE! HE'S THE LEADER, WE NEED HIM ALIVE!

THAT'S A MATTER OF OPINION.

AN' AT THE MOMENT, MINE'S AS NEGATIVE AS IT GETS.

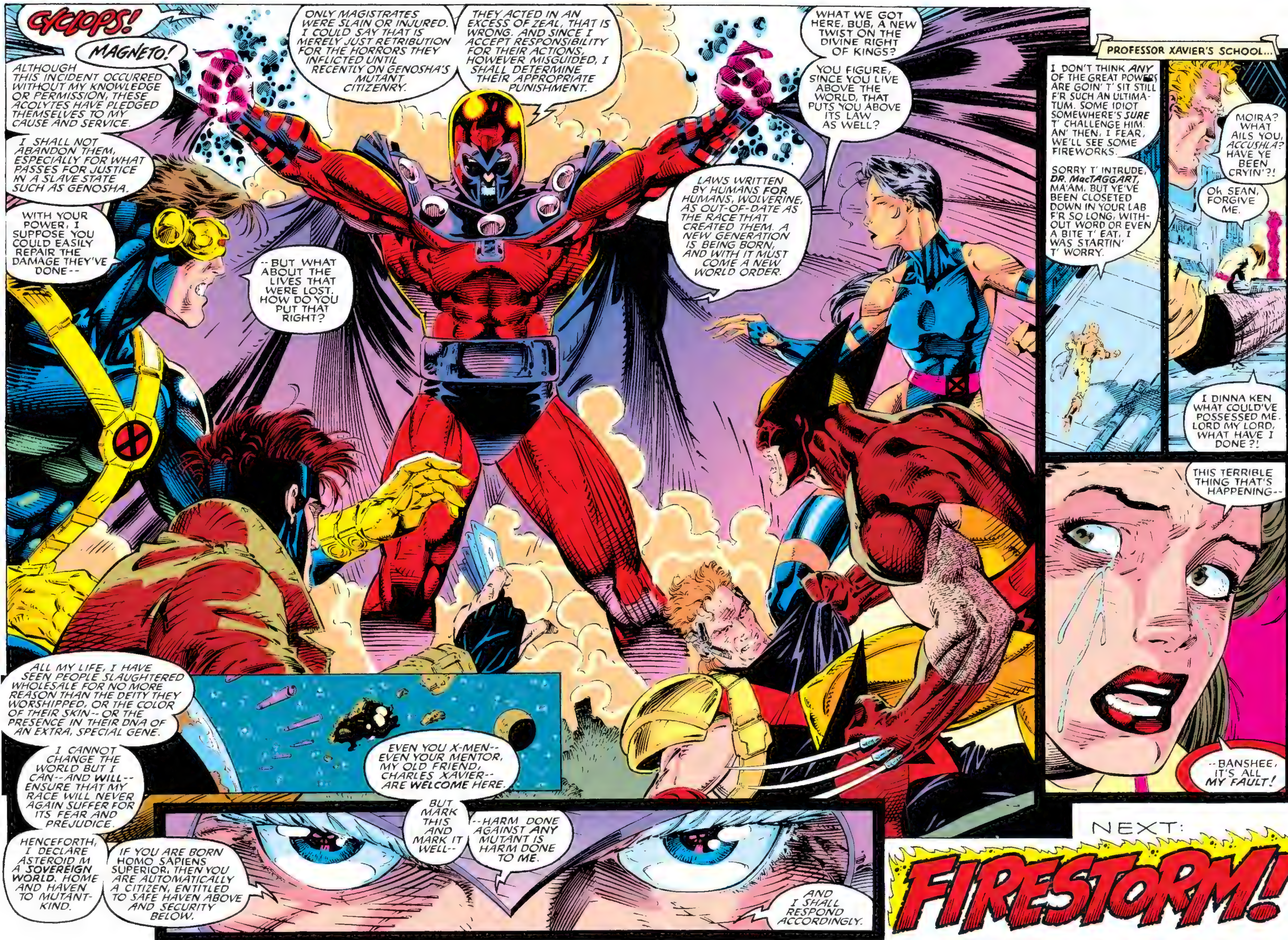
UNLESS YOU CAN GIVE ME A REASON TO CHANGE MY MIND.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR SUCH MELO-DRAMA, X-MAN.

I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

INDEED, I AND MINE ARE AS PROUD OF OUR AFFILIATION AS YOU OF YOURS.





**Cyclops!**

**MAGNETO!**

ALTHOUGH THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION, THESE ACOLYTES HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO MY CAUSE AND SERVICE.

I SHALL NOT ABANDON THEM, ESPECIALLY FOR WHAT PASSES FOR JUSTICE IN A SLAVE STATE SUCH AS GENOSHA.

WITH YOUR POWER, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD EASILY REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY'VE DONE--

ONLY MAGISTRATES WERE SLAIN OR INJURED. I COULD SAY THAT IS MERELY JUST RETRIBUTION FOR THE HORRORS THEY INFLECTED UNTIL RECENTLY ON GENOSHA'S MUTANT CITIZENRY.

THEY ACTED IN AN EXCESS OF ZEAL, THAT IS WRONG. AND SINCE I ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS, HOWEVER MISGUIDED, I SHALL DETERMINE THEIR APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.

WHAT WE GOT HERE, BUB, A NEW TWIST ON THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS?

YOU FIGURE, SINCE YOU LIVE ABOVE THE WORLD, THAT PUTS YOU ABOVE ITS LAW AS WELL?

LAWS WRITTEN BY HUMANS FOR HUMANS, WOLVERINE, AS OUT-OF-DATE AS THE RACE THAT CREATED THEM. A NEW GENERATION IS BEING BORN, AND WITH IT MUST COME A NEW WORLD ORDER.

-- BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LIVES THAT WERE LOST. HOW DO YOU PUT THAT RIGHT?

ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE SLAUGHTERED WHOLESALE FOR NO MORE REASON THAN THE DEITY THEY WORSHIPPED, OR THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN-- OR THE PRESENCE IN THEIR DNA OF AN EXTRA, SPECIAL GENE.

I CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD BUT I CAN-- AND WILL-- ENSURE THAT MY RACE WILL NEVER AGAIN SUFFER FOR ITS FEAR AND PREJUDICE.

HENCEFORTH, I DECLARE ASTEROID IN A SOVEREIGN WORLD. HOME AND HAVEN TO MUTANT-KIND.

IF YOU ARE BORN HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR, THEN YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY A CITIZEN, ENTITLED TO SAFE HAVEN ABOVE AND SECURITY BELOW.

EVEN YOU X-MEN-- EVEN YOUR MENTOR, MY OLD FRIEND, CHARLES XAVIER-- ARE WELCOME HERE.

BUT MARK THIS AND MARK IT WELL--

-- HARM DONE AGAINST ANY MUTANT IS HARM DONE TO ME.

AND I SHALL RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

I DON'T THINK ANY OF THE GREAT POWERS ARE GOIN' T' SIT STILL F'R SUCH AN ULTIMATUM. SOME IDIOT SOMEWHERE'S SURE T' CHALLENGE HIM. AN' THEN, I FEAR, WE'LL SEE SOME FIREWORKS.

SORRY T' INTRUDE, DR. MacTAGGART, MA'AM. BUT YE'VE BEEN CLOSETED DOWN IN YOUR LAB F'R SO LONG, WITHOUT WORD OR EVEN A BITE T' EAT. I WAS STARTIN' T' WORRY.

MOIRA? WHAT AILS YOU, ACCUSHLA? HAVE YE BEEN CRYIN'?

OH SEAN, FORGIVE ME.

I DINNA KEN WHAT COULD'VE POSSESSED ME. LORD MY LORD, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

THIS TERRIBLE THING THAT'S HAPPENING--

-- BANSHEE, IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

NEXT:

**FIRESTORM!**



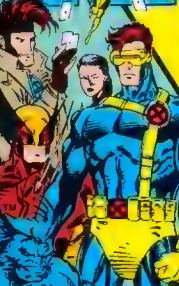


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STAN LEE PRESENTS

# FIRESTORM

By CHRIS CLAREMONT & JIM LEE

I SAY  
AGAIN,  
X-MEN--

-- THESE  
ACOLYTES  
HAVE PLEDGED  
THEMSELVES  
TO MY SERVICE  
AND MY  
CAUSE.

I SHALL  
NOT  
ABANDON  
THEM.

SCOTT WILLIAMS  
INKER

JOE ROSAS  
COLORIST

TOM ORZECOWSKI  
LETTERER

BOB HARRAS  
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO  
FIRECHIEF



HAMMER BAY, CAPITAL CITY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN NATION OF GENOSHA, AMIDST THE RUINS OF THE CENTRAL MEDICAL FACILITY...

THEY ACTED IN AN EXCESS OF ZEAL. IF SO...

...AND I ALONE-- SHALL DETERMINE THEIR APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.

PARDON MY ASKING, M'SIEU--

--BUT WHO DIED AN' MADE YOU GOD?

MAGNETO-- DON'T DO THIS!

YOU'RE PLAYIN' RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF EVERY DEMAGOGUE WHO B'LIEVES MUTANTS OUGHT'A BE WIPED OFF THE FACE O' THE EARTH!

HE DOESN'T CARE, ROGUE.

ABOUT YOUR WORDS ANY MORE THAN THE FACT HIS PEOPLE JUST LAID WASTE TO THE HEART OF A CITY-- TO A HOSPITAL NO LESS!

WHY SHOULD THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM-- SELF-APPOINTED LEADER OF MUTANTKIND-- CARE A WHIT ABOUT THE LIVES, AND DEATHS, OF ORDINARY HUMAN BEINGS?

AS ALWAYS, CYCLOPS, YOU SEE ME AS YOU WISH. AND WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS THAT IS AS I TRULY AM--ABOUT THAT, YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT, I DO NO LONGER CARE.

THE GENOSHANS HAVE ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE, MAGNETO. THEY'VE RESOLVED TO MAKE AMENDS.

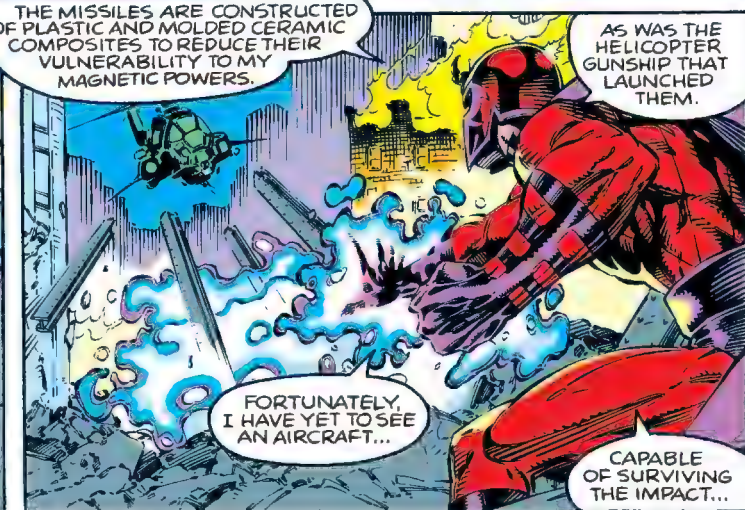
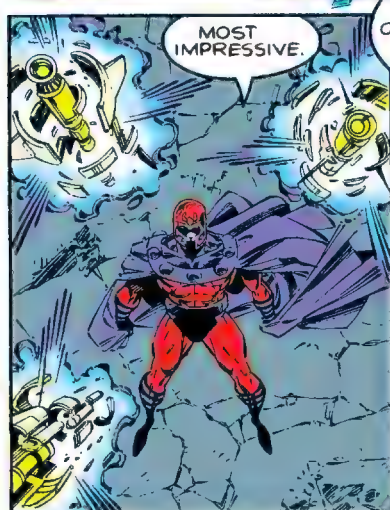
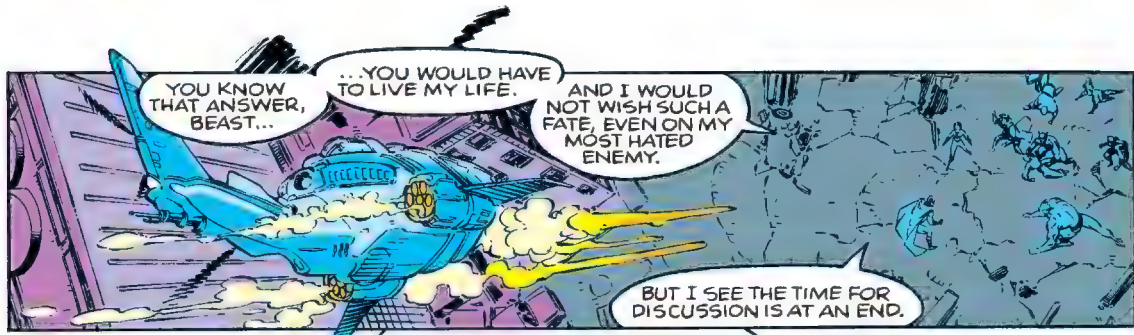
THEY'VE CHANGED-- FOR THE BETTER!

ABOUT THE DEVASTATION, SOME MIGHT CALL IT FIT PUNISHMENT FOR A STATE WHOSE PROSPERITY WAS BUILT ON THE BACKS OF MUTANT SLAVES!

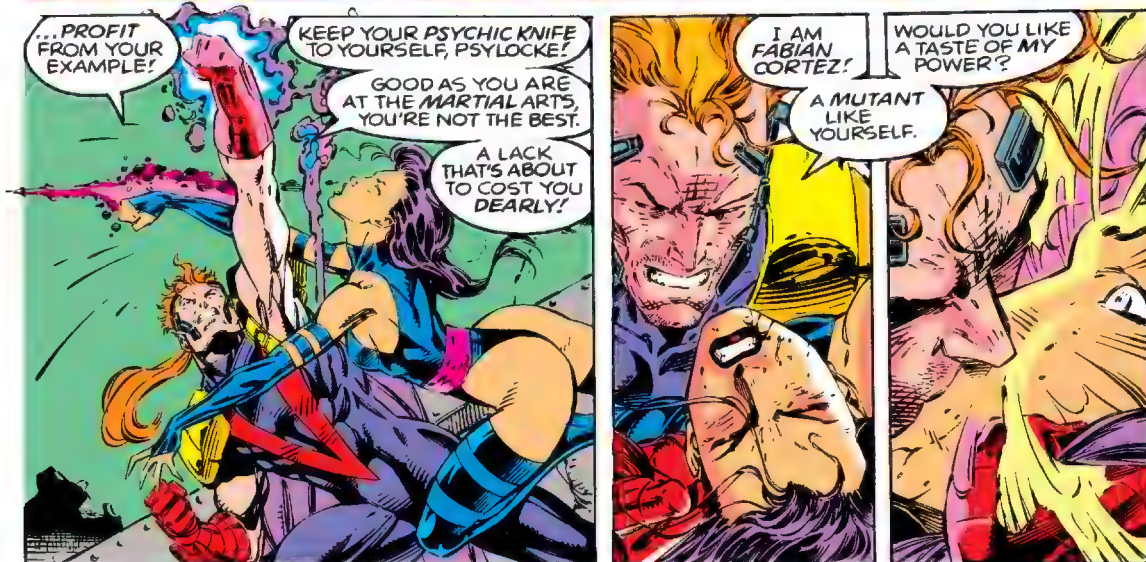
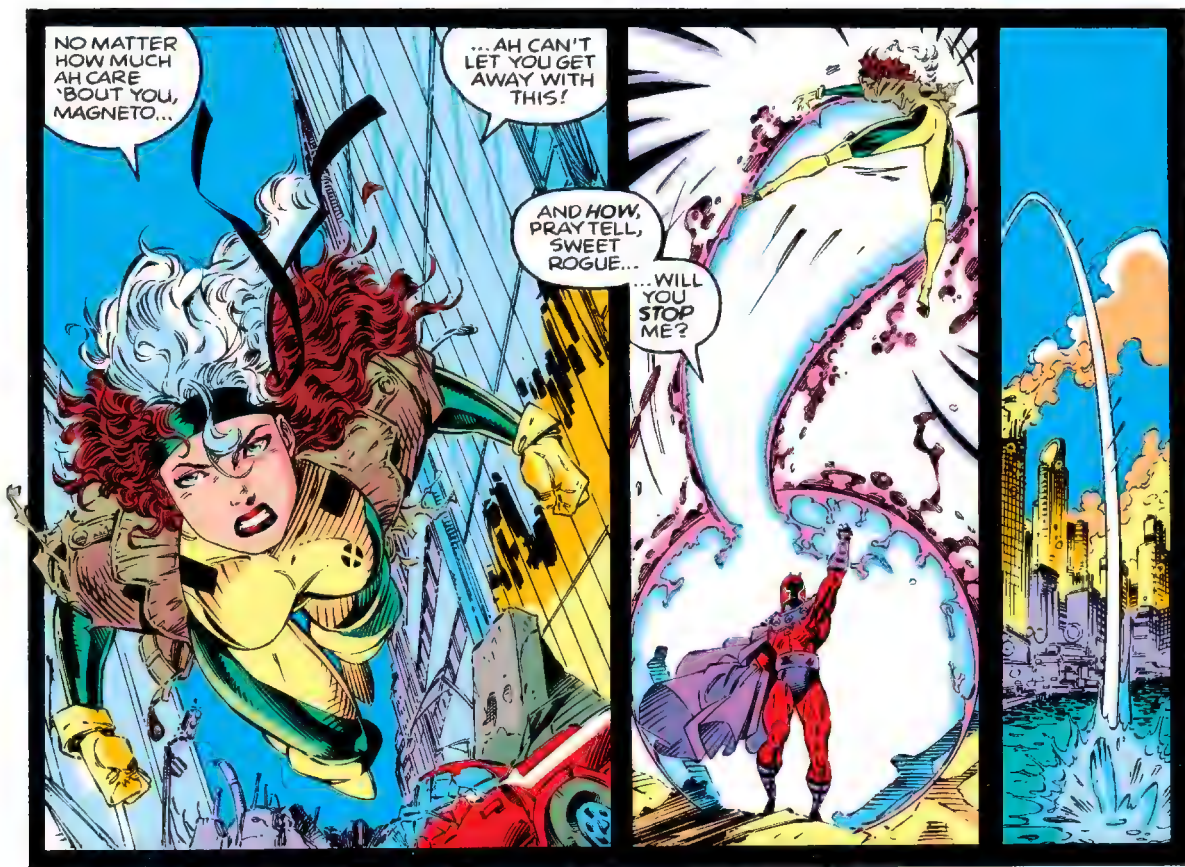
WHY IS IT YOU'RE GOING THE OTHER DIRECTION?



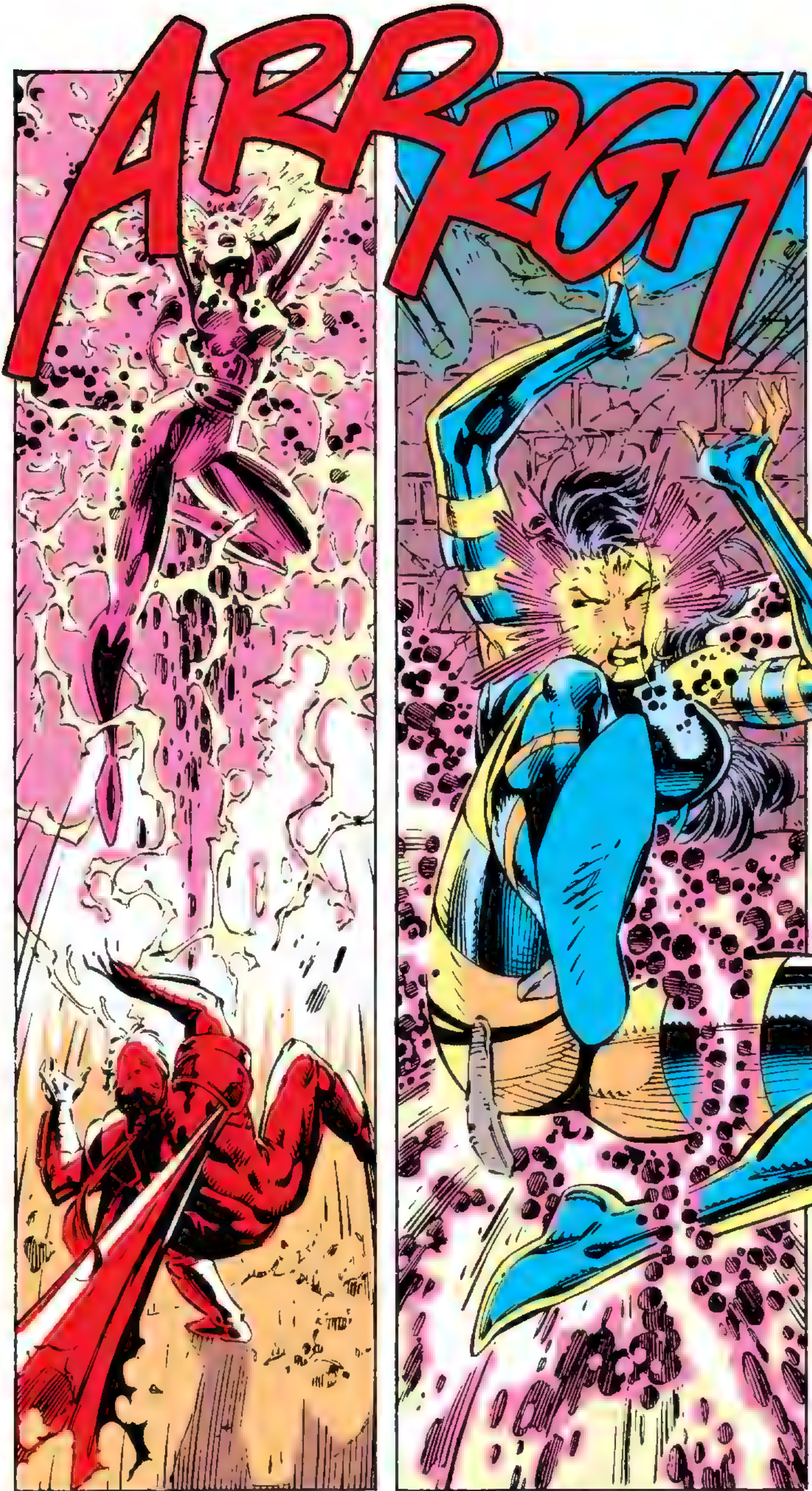












DEVASTATION IS TOO TAME A WORD TO DESCRIBE THE SCENE IN HAMMER BAY...

GE

A GREEN AND PLEASANT...

LIVE CHARLES GEOFFREY GENOSHA

...AS THIS NATION, WHICH HAS ONLY BEGUN TO RECOVER FROM ITS RECENT ALL-OUT CONFRONTATION WITH THE MUTANT BAND KNOWN AS THE X-MEN...

HE'S REFERRING TO THE INCIDENT WE'VE CODE-NAMED, "X-TINCTION AGENDA."

FROM THE USSR

GBN

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOT ITS HANDS FULL, TOO.

AWFULLY DROLL WAY, COLONEL FURY...

...OF REFERRING TO THE FIRST HOSTILE DETONATION IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR...

...OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON.

IN SOVIET AIRSPACE, COLONEL--

--WITH THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE BEARING THE AWFUL CONSEQUENCES!

ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS DISRUPTED ACROSS THE CONTINENT, THANKS TO THE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE.

CONTAMINATION TO THE BIOSPHERE FROM THE RELEASE OF MORE CONCENTRATED RADIO-ACTIVITY AND FALLOUT THAN WAS GENERATED BY THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER!

I READ THE BRIEFING PAPERS, COMRADE ALEXEYEV.

AN' NO, DR. COOPER, I WASN'T MAKIN' FUN, JUST AN OBSERVATION.

FACT IS, WE GOT OURSELVES A CRISIS SITUATION HERE. WE GOTTA DEFUSE IT...

...OR LET IT ESCALATE INTO SOMETHING WE'LL ALL REGRET?

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC VEHEMENTLY OPPOSES ANY VIOLENT RESOLUTION OF THIS SITUATION. RATHER, WE WOULD PREFER TO WELCOME MAGNETO INTO THE FAMILY OF NATIONS.

THIS IS CHIEF MAGISTRATE ANDERSON, IN GENOSHA!

HAVE YOU GOT EYES? CAN'T YOU SEE?!

WHILE YOU IDIOTS ARE BLITHERING AT THE UNITED NATIONS, MAGNETO IS DESTROYING MY COUNTRY!

AND BECAUSE OF THE STRICTURES LAID DOWN BY YOU AFTER THE X-TINCTION MESS, MY TROOPS ARE POWERLESS TO STOP HIM! WE'RE BEING MASSACRED!

THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS WILL NOT ALLOW A REPEAT OF WHAT HAS JUST HAPPENED TO US AND TO GENOSHA.

MY GOVERNMENT DEMANDS FULL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS.

WHAT ABOUT THE RISK?

IF NECESSARY, COLONEL FURY, WE WILL ACT ALONE. BUT ACT, WE SHALL!







WHAT A NASTY LITTLE TEMPER YOU HAVE THERE, FUR-BALL.

YOU MAY WELL HAVE SAVED YOUR FRIEND-- THOUGH I DOUBT IN HER PRESENT STATE, SHE'D CONSIDER THAT A BLESSING--

-- BUT I'LL WAGER AT THE COST OF THE X-MEN'S GOOD AND HEROIC REPUTATION, FAIR TRADE-OFF, D'YOU THINK?

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER, ACOYTE?!

WHY, WHAT COMES NATURALLY, X-MAN!

I ENHANCED PSYLOCKE'S TELEPATHIC POWER TO ITS ULTIMATE EXTENT. SHE'S PROBABLY IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH EVERY SENTIENT MIND ON THE ISLAND.

TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE-- D'YOU THINK HER POOR WEE SKULL CAN HANDLE THE LOAD?

PROB'LY A WHOLE LOT BETTER, SLUG... ..THAN YOU CAN, MY QUARTER-STAFF!

**STOP!**

WITH A WHOLE WORLD SCREAMING FOR MUTANT BLOOD...

...WE CANNOT AFFORD TO WASTE OUR ENERGIES FIGHTING AMONGST OURSELVES.

STRANGE, WE ALWAYS FIGURED WE WERE STANDING AGAINST INJUSTICE.

THEN, BEAST, YOUR PLACE SHOULD BE BY MY SIDE.

FOR WHAT GREATER INJUSTICE CAN THERE BE THAN A PEOPLE WHO WOULD HATE AND EVEN DESTROY THEIR CHILDREN...

...SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY EXIST?

AND YOU'RE ANY DIFFERENT?

YOUR LEADERS ARE BEATEN, YOUR CAUSE LOST. I CALL ON YOU TO YIELD.



HALF-A-WORLD AWAY, IN THE SUBURBAN NEW YORK CITY MANSION THAT HOUSES PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS AND SERVES AS THE X-MEN'S SECRET HEADQUARTERS...

FIRST STRING DEFENSES FULLY ENABLED AND ON-LINE.

ALERT CALL'S OUT TO STORM AND HER TEAM.

D'VE THINK WE'LL BE A TARGET, FORGE?

MAGNETO'S ALL BUT NAILED CYCLOPS'S TEAM, STANDS TO REASON HE'LL COME FOR US NEXT.

FORGE, WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS REFERRED TO IN THE UNITED NATIONS SESSION?

WHAT D'VE THINK THEY'LL DO, CHARLES?

I HAVE NO IDEA, BANSHEE, AND THAT FRIGHTENS ME.

YE'RE TALKIN' LIKE WE'RE IN A WAR.

NO, MY FRIEND. THEY ARE.

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS MOIRA?

RAN OFF, RIGHT WHEN FORGE SOUNDED THE ALARM.

STAY HERE AND ASSIST FORGE. I SHALL FIND HER.

NOT MUCH. THEY'RE PRESIDENTIAL-ACCESS ONLY FILES, ABOUT AS TOP SECRET AS THINGS GET.

I NEED THAT INFORMATION.

PROFESSOR, IT ISN'T WISE TO LEAVE THE SECURE FACILITY.

I'LL COME WITH--!

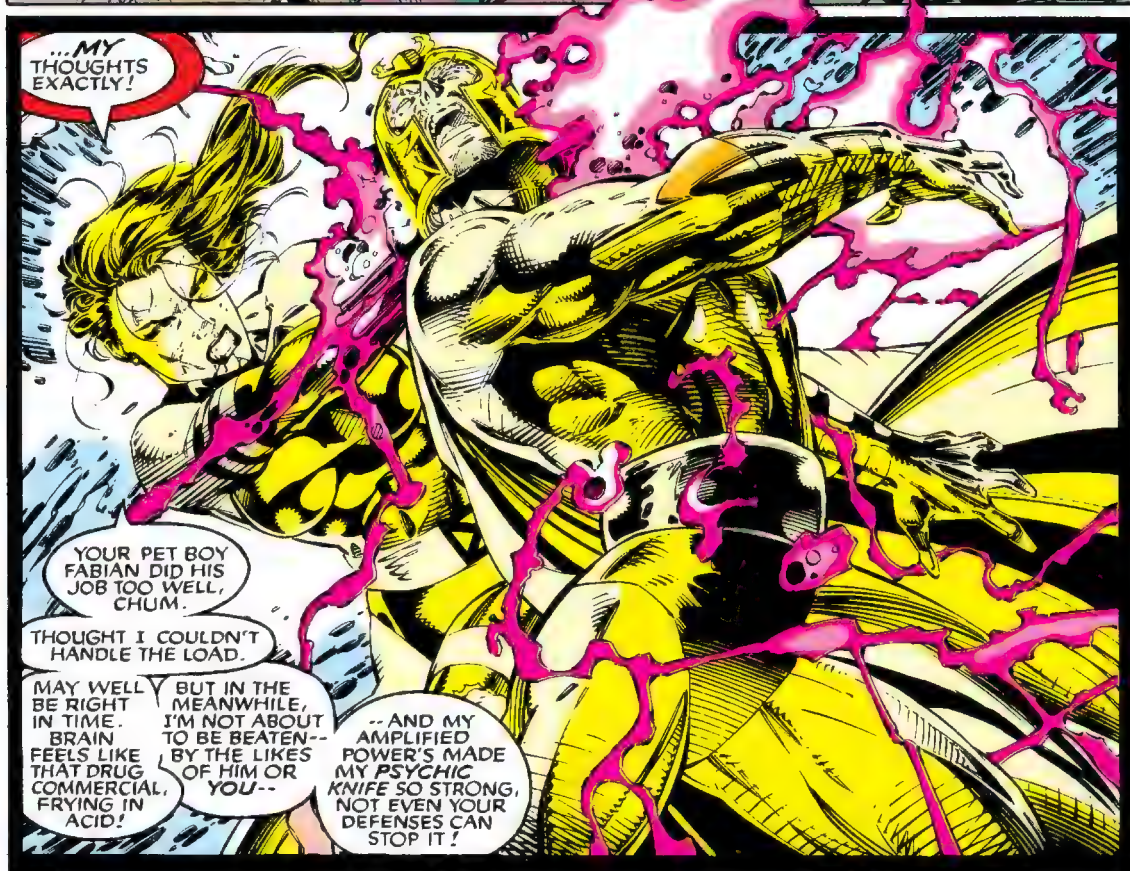
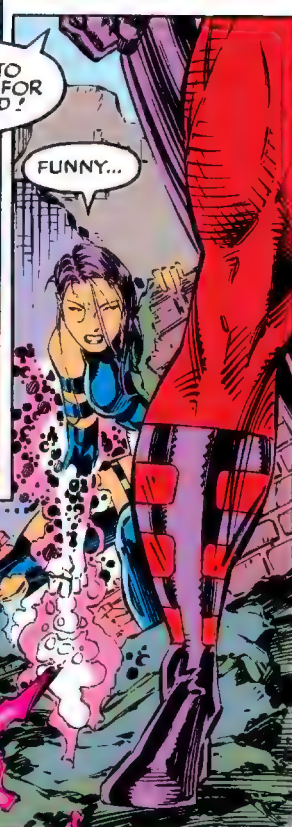
NO!

I UNDERSTAND THE RISK, FORGE, AND ACCEPT IT.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS FOR THE WOMAN YOU LOVE, BANSHEE, MINE ARE NO LESS. THAT IS WHY I ASK YOU TO RESPECT MY DECISION.

AND ACCEPT IT.









THE  
FORCE  
OF THE  
MAN--!

ONLY HAVE AN  
EDGE BECAUSE I  
CAUGHT HIM  
OFF-GUARD.

UNDER NORMAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES, AT  
MY NORMAL LEVELS,  
I DOUBT I COULD  
COME EVEN CLOSE  
TO HURTING HIM.

HOLD  
HIM A SEC  
LONGER,  
BETTS.

YOU BROUGHT  
HIM DOWN,  
AH'LL TAKE  
HIM

OWUHH

!?!?

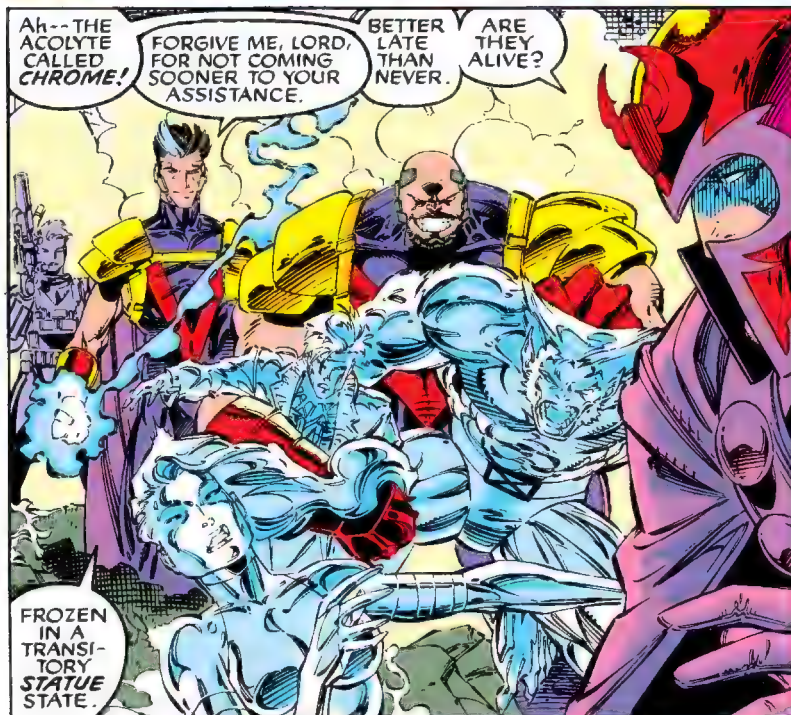


Ah-- THE  
ACOLYTE  
CALLED  
CHROME!

FORGIVE ME, LORD,  
FOR NOT COMING  
SOONER TO YOUR  
ASSISTANCE.

BETTER  
LATE  
THAN NEVER.

ARE  
THEY  
ALIVE?



FROZEN  
IN A  
TRANSI-  
TORY  
STATUE  
STATE.



LEAVE THEM AS THEY  
ARE, THEN, UNTIL WE  
RETURN TO ASTEROID M.

AT WHICH POINT, I  
SHALL DETERMINE THEIR  
ULTIMATE FATE.

AND  
YOURS,  
CORTEZ.

NONE OF THIS  
WOULD HAVE  
HAPPENED HAD  
YOU NOT  
MOUNTED THIS  
ATTACK.

I SOUGHT  
ONLY TO  
DEMONSTRATE  
MY WORTHI-  
NESS, LORD,  
AND YOUR  
ACOLYTES'  
CAPABILI-  
TIES.

IN BOTH  
THEN,  
YOU HAVE  
FAILED.

DO NOT  
DO SO A  
SECOND  
TIME.

BEFORE  
YOU PASS  
JUDGMENT,  
LORD, I HAVE  
UNCOVERED  
SOME INFOR-  
MATION I  
BELIEVE YOU  
OUGHT TO  
KNOW



AND PRESENTLY, AFTER THEIR UNEVENTFUL RETURN TO ASTEROID M, MAINTAINED BY MAGNETO'S POWER IN LOW EARTH ORBIT 250 KILOMETERS ABOVE THE PLANETARY SURFACE, BEHIND A DEFENSIVE SCREEN OF NUCLEAR MISSILES APPROPRIATED FROM A SUNKEN SOVIET SUBMARINE...

I NOTICED THE ANOMALY WHEN I HEALED YOU OF YOUR WOUNDS, LORD.

A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE GENETIC CODES IN THE MASTER FILES...

...AND WHAT I SENSED IN YOUR OWN BODY.

AND YOU SAW FIT TO WITHHOLD THIS... REVELATION FROM ME?

NO, LORD, NEVER!

YOU WERE ASLEEP WHEN I LED MY STRIKE GROUP TO GENOSHA. I MEANT TO INFORM YOU UPON OUR RETURN.

IN TRUTH, I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.

IT IS A PIECE OF GENETIC ENGINEERING, AN ARTIFICIAL ALTERATION IN MY DNA CODES.

AND I KNOW OF ONLY ONE WAY IT COULD HAVE OCCURRED.

BAIKONUR COSMODROME, SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA...

...DRI ...SVA ...ODIN--  
IGNITION!

< WE HAVE LIFTOFF. VEHICLE CLEARING THE LAUNCH TOWER, ALL SYSTEMS NOMINAL.\* >

\*TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN--BH.

< A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT, eh, COMRADE DIRECTOR-GENERAL? >

< NOT SO LONG AGO, DMITRI, LAUNCHING THAT PLASMA CANNON WOULD HAVE PROVOKED AN IMMEDIATE THERMONUCLEAR RESPONSE FROM THE AMERICANS. >

< NOW, WASHINGTON CHEERS US ON. IT IS ONLY MAGNETO WE HAVE TO FEAR. >

I WONDER, OLD FRIEND, HAVE OUR ACTIONS SAVED OUR POOR WORLD... >

< ...OR SEALED ITS DOOM. >



THE BOATHOUSE, ON THE SHORE OF  
BREAKSTONE LAKE, A BRISK DOWNHILL  
WALK FROM XAVIER'S MANSION...

IF IT'S ANSWERS  
Y' WANT FROM  
ME, CHARLEY...

...ALL Y' NEED DO IS REACH INTO MY  
MIND.

IN ALL THE YEARS WE'VE  
KNOWN EACH OTHER, MOIRA,  
I'VE NEVER DONE THAT.

I GAVE YOU MY  
WORD I NEVER  
WOULD.

BUT Y'  
WANT TO. I  
DON'T HAVE  
T' BE A  
TELEPATH  
LIKE YOU T'  
KNOW THAT.

ONCE, I HELD BACK  
THE TRUTH ABOUT MY  
MUTANT SON,  
PROTEUS, UNTIL HE  
WENT MAD AN' THE  
TIME CAME F'R THE  
X-MEN T' FIGHT HIM  
T' HIS DEATH.

NOW  
YE'RE  
AFRAID  
I'VE  
DONE IT  
AGAIN.

CHARLES  
XAVIER IS  
NOT THE ONLY  
INTERESTED  
PARTY  
HERE, DR.  
MacTAGGERT.

AND IF YOU ARE  
HIDING SOMETHING--  
ESPECIALLY SOMETHING  
THAT I STRONGLY  
SUSPECT PERTAINS  
TO ME--

-- I  
REALLY  
MUST INSIST  
YOU REVEAL  
WHAT  
IT IS.

**MAGNETO!?!**

DON'T  
BOTHR  
ALERTING YOUR  
MANSION'S  
DEFENDERS,  
CHARLES.

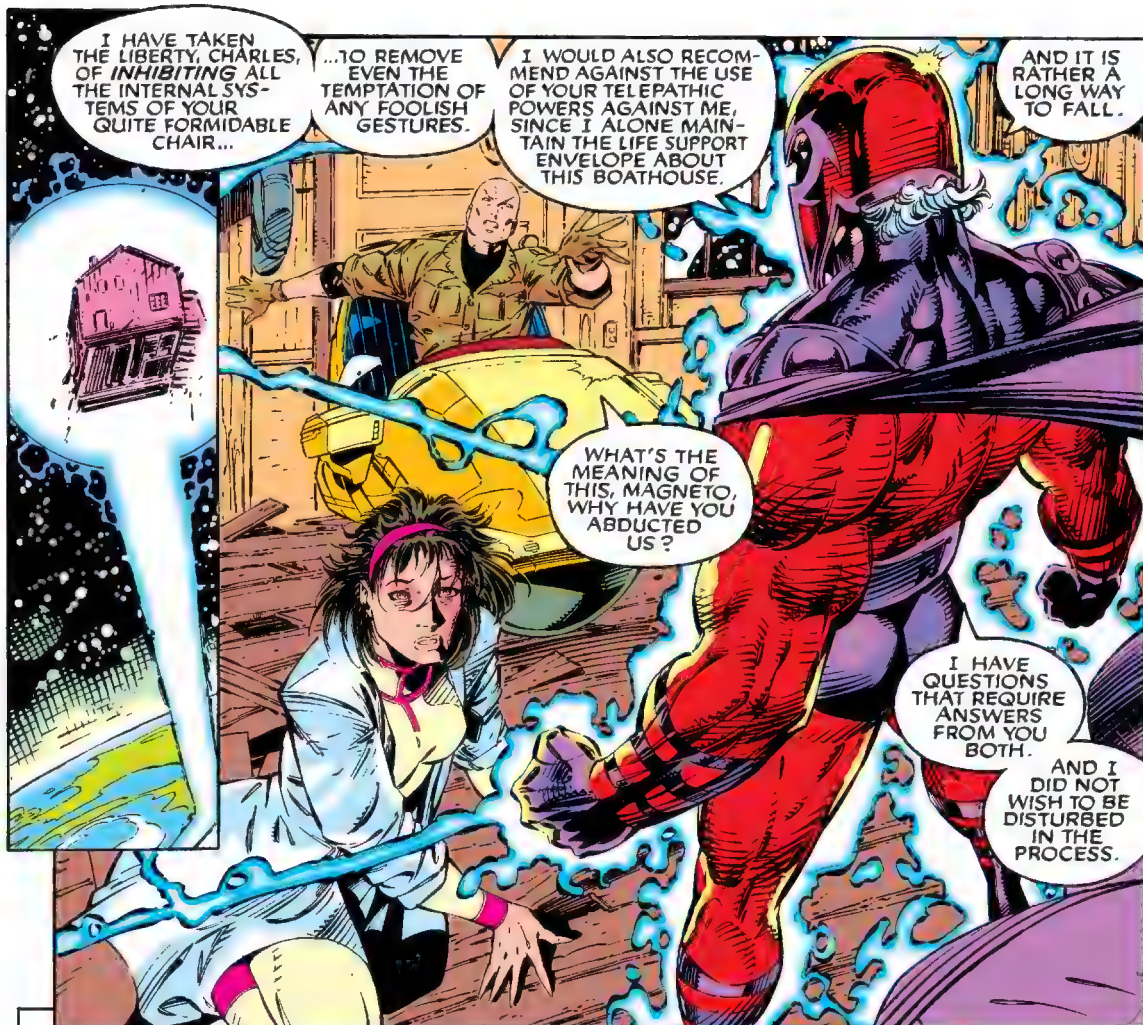
WE ARE  
QUITE  
BEYOND  
THEIR  
REACH.

I TOLD THE  
MAN, I  
WARNED  
HIM!

NO USE BELLY-  
ACHIN'. WE UNDER-  
ESTIMATED MAGNETO  
AN' HE BURNED  
US.

QUESTION  
NOW IS,  
WHAT DO  
WE DO  
NEXT?





I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY, CHARLES, OF **INHIBITING** ALL THE INTERNAL SYSTEMS OF YOUR QUITE FORMIDABLE CHAIR...

...TO REMOVE EVEN THE TEMPTATION OF ANY FOOLISH GESTURES.

I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND AGAINST THE USE OF YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS AGAINST ME, SINCE I ALONE MAINTAIN THE LIFE SUPPORT ENVELOPE ABOUT THIS BOATHOUSE.

AND IT IS RATHER A LONG WAY TO FALL.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, MAGNETO, WHY HAVE YOU ABDUCTED US?

I HAVE QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE ANSWERS FROM YOU BOTH.

AND I DID NOT WISH TO BE DISTURBED IN THE PROCESS.

I HAVE FOUND SOME... INTRIGUING ANOMALIES IN MY DNA MATRIX. I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU MIGHT TELL ME ABOUT IT.

I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST NOTION **WHAT** YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

I HOPE THAT'S TRUE, BECAUSE WE WERE **FRIENDS** ONCE.

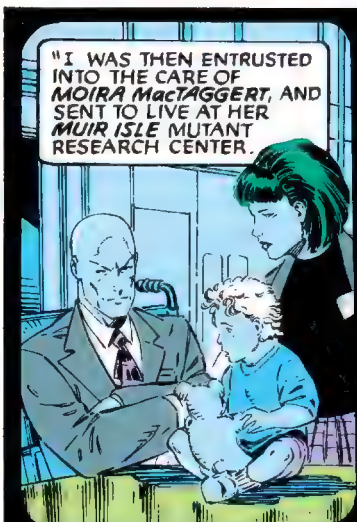
AND WHEN ONE FRIEND BETRAYS THE OTHER'S **TRUST**, IT LEAVES A WOUND THAT NEVER TRULY HEALS.

CAST YOUR MINDS BACK, BOTH OF YOU, TO MY EARLIEST INCARNATION, AND THAT REGRETTABLE CONFRONTATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS WITH A MUTANT OF MY OWN CREATION...

...WHICH RESULTED IN MY BEING REDUCED TO A STATE OF **INFANCY**. \*

\*FOR THOSE KEEPING SCORE, IT WAS IN DEFENDERS #16-- Bob.





"I WAS THEN ENTRUSTED INTO THE CARE OF MOIRA MacTAggert, and sent to live at her MUIR ISLE MUTANT RESEARCH CENTER.



"WHO KNOWS, I MIGHT HAVE LIVED A 'NORMAL' LIFE, HAD NOT AN AGENT OF THE ALIEN SHI'AR...  
"...RESTORED ME TO MY PRIME."\*

\*UNCANNY X-MEN #104-- Bob.



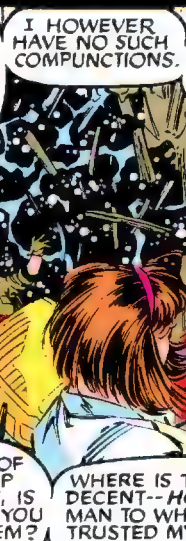
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT OCCURRED DURING THE MONTHS I WAS IN YOUR CARE, MOIRA?  
I... I DINNA KEN WHAT Y' MEAN.  
THAT'S A PITY.



REGRETTABLY, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.



NEITHER, I'LL WAGER, DOES CHARLES, ALTHOUGH HE'S TOO MUCH OF A GENTLEMAN TO PRESS THE POINT.

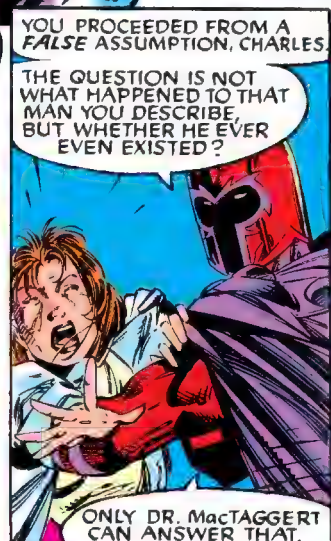


I HOWEVER HAVE NO SUCH COMPUCTIONS.



I SUGGEST YOU SEARCH YOUR SOUL-- RATHER QUICKLY-- AND FIND A BETTER, TRUER ANSWER.

CHARLES!



YOU PROCEEDED FROM A FALSE ASSUMPTION, CHARLES.

THE QUESTION IS NOT WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT MAN YOU DESCRIBE, BUT WHETHER HE EVER EVEN EXISTED?

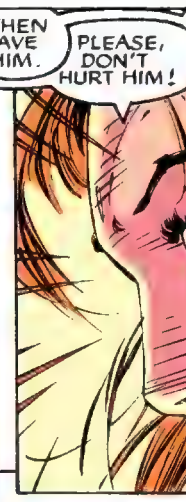
ONLY DR. MacTAggert CAN ANSWER THAT.



AND IF SHE HAS ANY REGARD AT ALL FOR YOUR LIFE, OLD FRIEND...



THAT'S A VACUUM OUT THERE, HE'LL DIE!



THEN SAVE HIM.



PLEASE, DON'T HURT HIM!

IT'S ALMOST TOO LATE.

STOP!

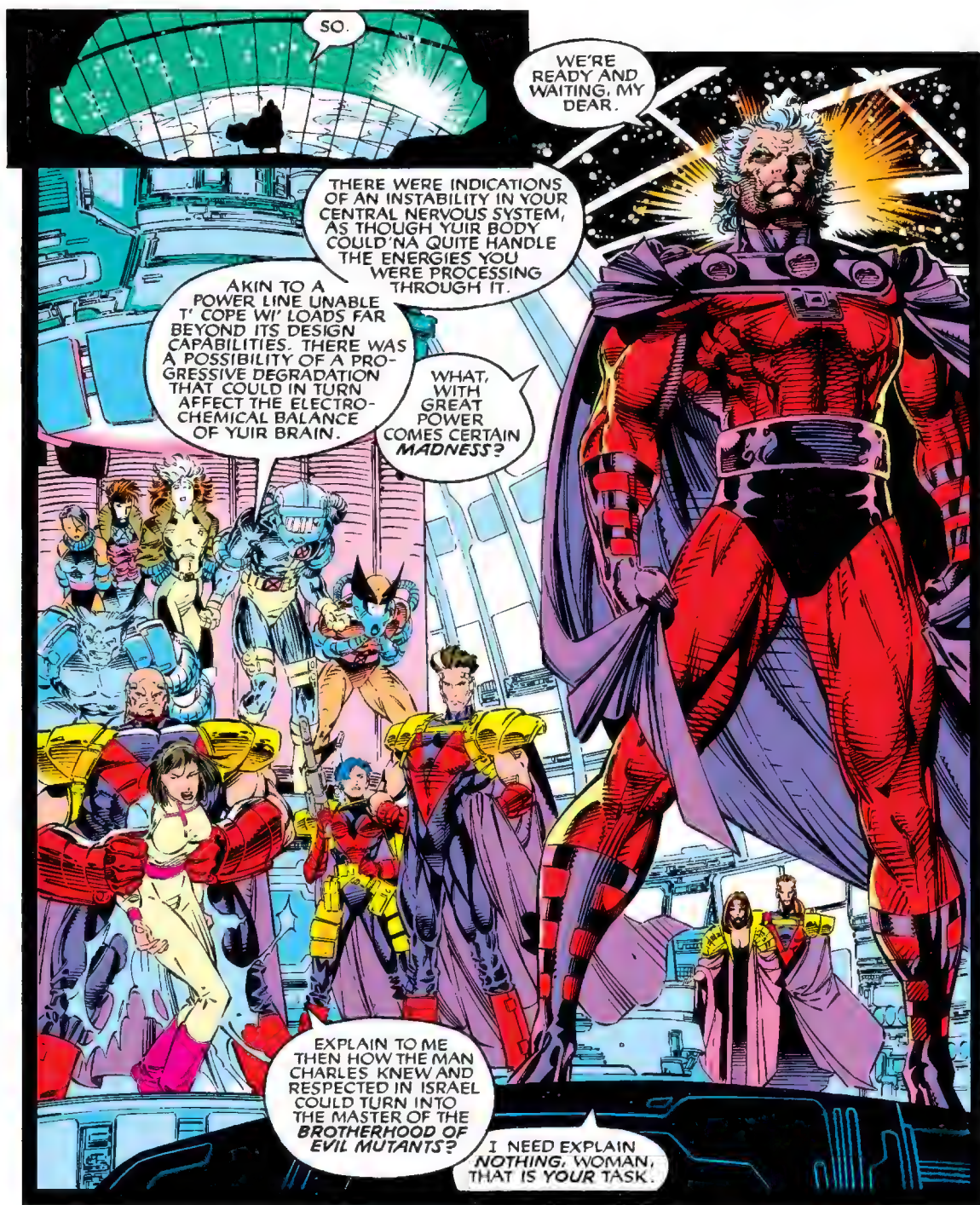
I'LL TELL Y' WHAT Y' WANT TO KNOW. JUST BRING HIM BACK INSIDE, PLEASE, I BEG YOU...

...I'LL TELL Y' EVERYTHING!



I NEVER DOUBTED IT FOR AN INSTANT.





SO.

WE'RE  
READY AND  
WAITING, MY  
DEAR.

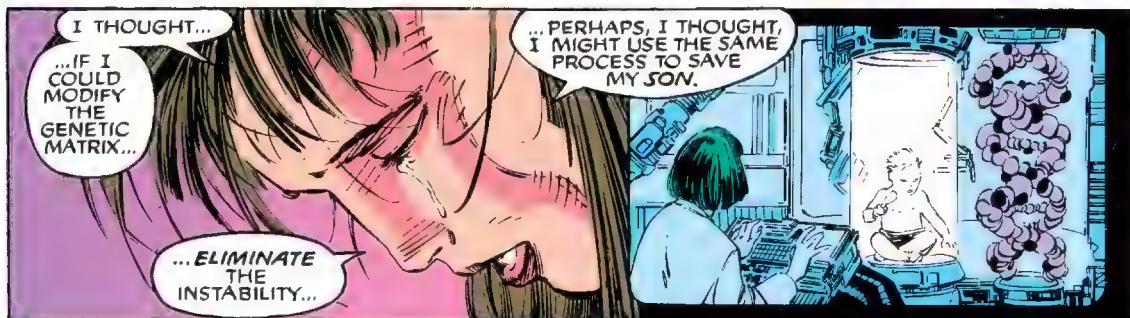
THERE WERE INDICATIONS  
OF AN INSTABILITY IN YOUR  
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM,  
AS THOUGH YOUR BODY  
COULD'NA QUITE HANDLE  
THE ENERGIES YOU  
WERE PROCESSING  
THROUGH IT.

AKIN TO A  
POWER LINE UNABLE  
T' COPE W/ LOADS FAR  
BEYOND ITS DESIGN  
CAPABILITIES. THERE WAS  
A POSSIBILITY OF A PRO-  
GRESSIVE DEGRADATION  
THAT COULD IN TURN  
AFFECT THE ELECTRO-  
CHEMICAL BALANCE  
OF YOUR BRAIN.

WHAT,  
WITH  
GREAT  
POWER  
COMES CERTAIN  
MADNESS?

EXPLAIN TO ME  
THEN HOW THE MAN  
CHARLES KNEW AND  
RESPECTED IN ISRAEL  
COULD TURN INTO  
THE MASTER OF THE  
BROTHERHOOD OF  
EVIL MUTANTS?

I NEED EXPLAIN  
NOTHING, WOMAN,  
THAT IS YOUR TASK.



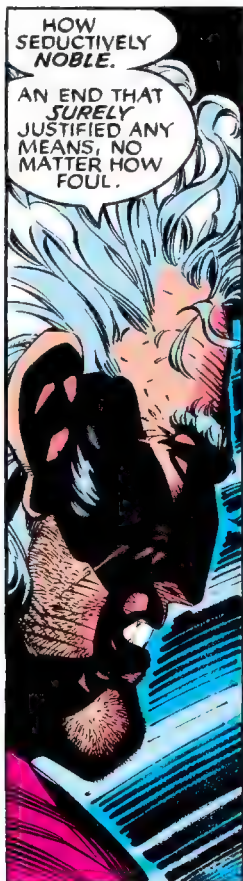
I THOUGHT...

...IF I  
COULD  
MODIFY  
THE  
GENETIC  
MATRIX...

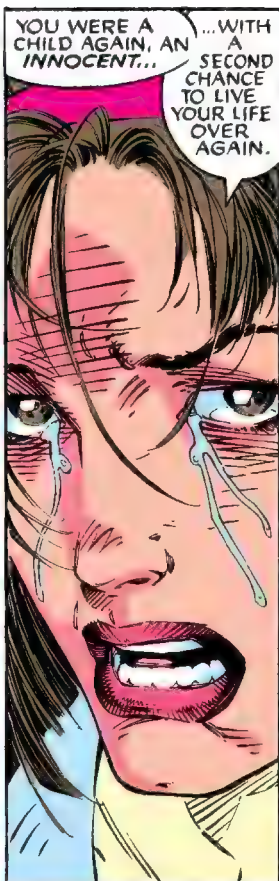
...ELIMINATE  
THE  
INSTABILITY...

...PERHAPS, I THOUGHT,  
I MIGHT USE THE SAME  
PROCESS TO SAVE  
MY SON.





HOW  
SEDUCTIVELY  
NOBLE.  
AN END THAT  
SURELY  
JUSTIFIED ANY  
MEANS, NO  
MATTER HOW  
FOUL.



YOU WERE A  
CHILD AGAIN, AN  
INNOCENT...  
...WITH  
A  
SECOND  
CHANCE  
TO LIVE  
YOUR LIFE  
OVER  
AGAIN.



AND WHO  
GAVE YOU  
THE RIGHT  
TO PLAY GOD  
WITH MY  
SOUL?!

BY THE ETERNAL, BY TINKERING  
WITH THE FOUNDATION OF MY  
BEING, YOU TOOK FROM ME THE  
DIMENSIONS OF MORAL CHOICE!

EVERY DECISION  
I'VE MADE SINCE MY  
REBIRTH IS NOW  
SUSPECT THANKS  
TO YOU--

--EVERY  
FIBER OF MY  
BEING THROWN  
INTO CHAOS.



HOW ELSE DID YOU TINKER, DOCTOR,  
DID IT AMUSE YOU TO SEE HOW EASILY  
I MIGHT BE MANIPULATED?

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!

OF COURSE NOT.  
YOU WORKED FOR  
THE BETTERMENT OF  
THE WORLD AND  
THE RACE.

I HEARD  
THOSE SAME  
RATIONALES AS  
A BOY, IN THE  
AUSCHWITZ  
DEATH CAMP,  
FROM DR. JOSEF  
MENGELE  
HIMSELF!



VERY WELL,  
THEN. AS  
YOU SOWED,  
SO SHALL  
YOU REAP.

BY REPLI-  
CATING YOUR  
PROCESS  
WITH THE  
X-MEN.

No!

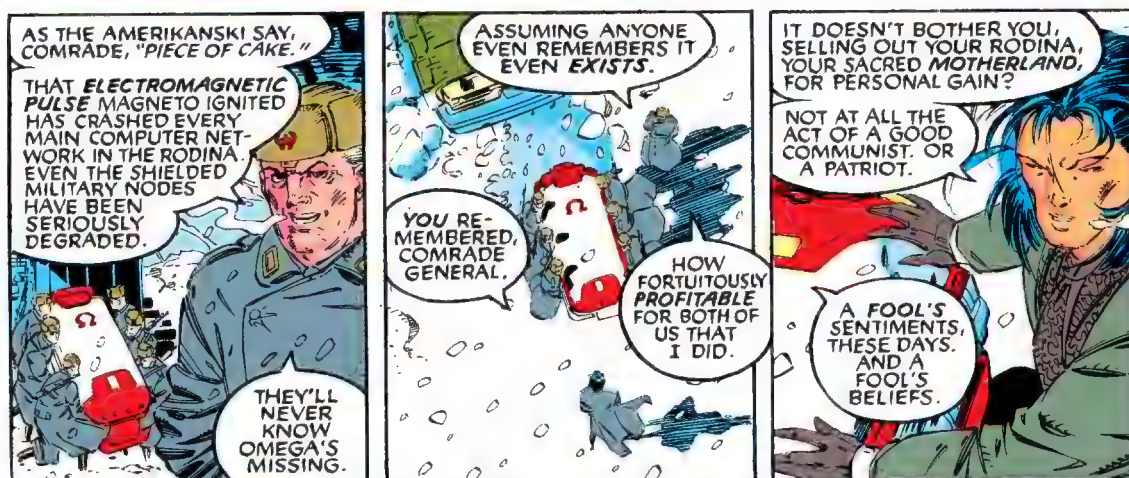
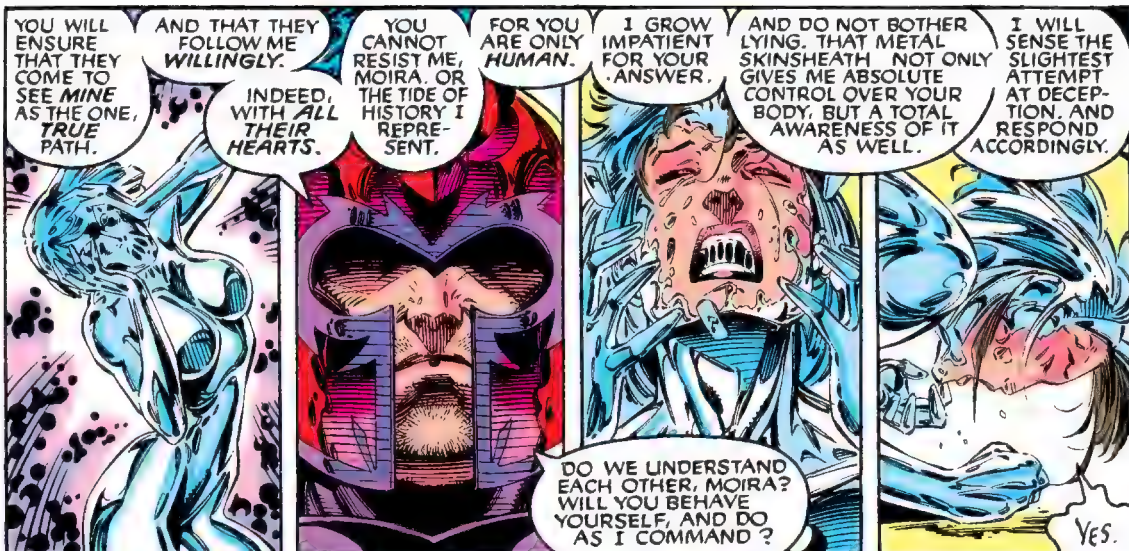


MY DEAR, YOU  
SPEAK AS THOUGH  
YOU HAVE A CHOICE.

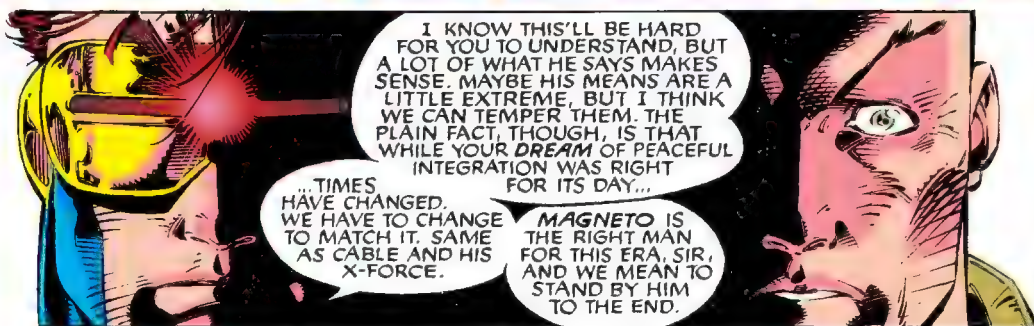
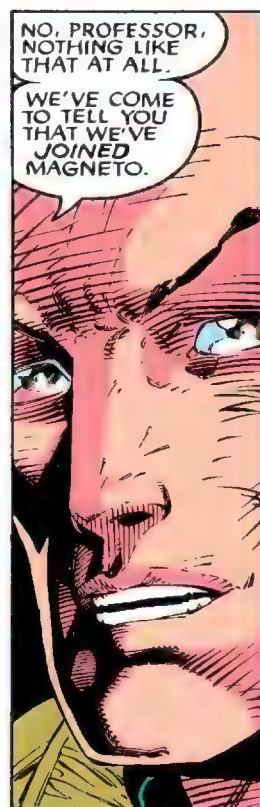
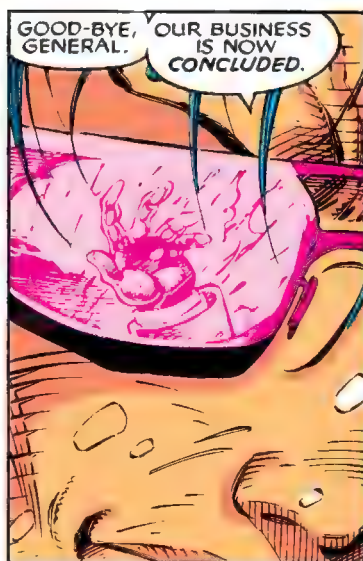
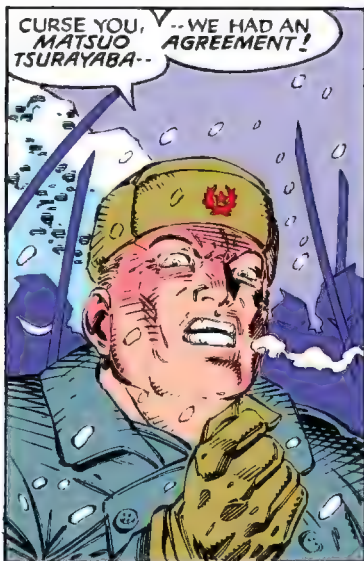
CONSIDER THE  
ALTERNATIVE--  
SHALL I RETURN  
YOU HOME ATOP  
A CHARIOT MADE  
FROM THEIR  
BROKEN  
BODIES?

TO LIVE  
FOREVER  
KNOWING THAT  
YOU COULD  
HAVE SAVED  
THEM, BUT  
FOR PRIDE?

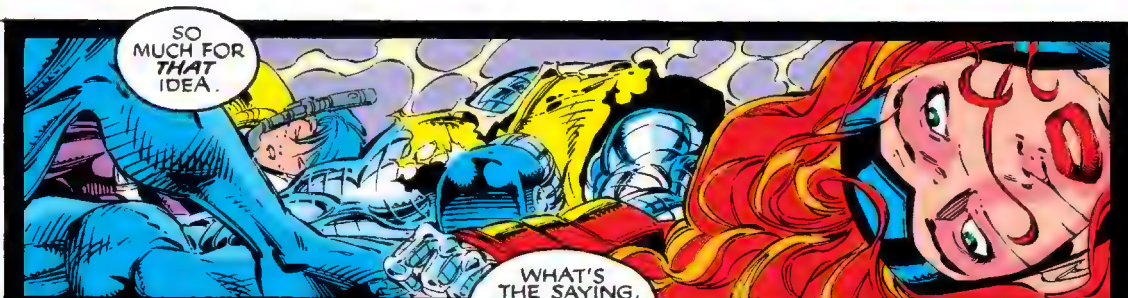






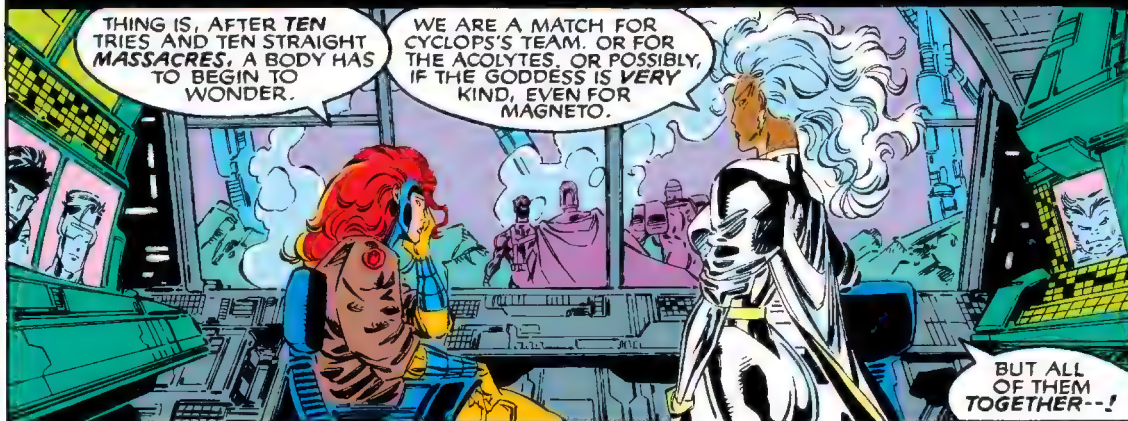






SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA.

WHAT'S THE SAYING, 'IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...'



THING IS, AFTER TEN TRIES AND TEN STRAIGHT MASSACRES, A BODY HAS TO BEGIN TO WONDER.

WE ARE A MATCH FOR CYCLOPS'S TEAM. OR FOR THE ACOLYTES. OR POSSIBLY, IF THE GODDESS IS VERY KIND, EVEN FOR MAGNETO.

BUT ALL OF THEM TOGETHER--!



WELL, THAT IS WHY WE HAVE THE DANGER ROOM.

TO EXAMINE HOW OUR FOES THINK AND ACT, THAT WE MAY BETTER UNCOVER A WEAKNESS WE CAN USE TO DEFEAT THEM.

ALWAYS ASSUMING THEY HAVE ONE.



SCOTT AND HIS TEAM ARE THE KEY. YOU ARE CERTAIN THEY HAVE BEEN TURNED?

I'M AFRAID SO.

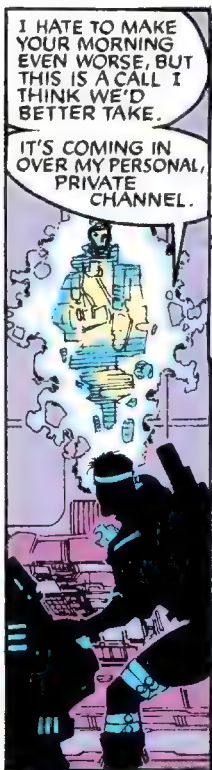
BUT HOW IS IT YOU KNOW? THROUGH THE PSYCHIC RAP-PORT YOU ONCE SHARED WITH SCOTT?



SORRY TO INTERRUPT, LADIES-- ANOTHER LOSS?

GEEZ-LOUISE, ORORO, WHAT ARE WE TODAY, THE METS?





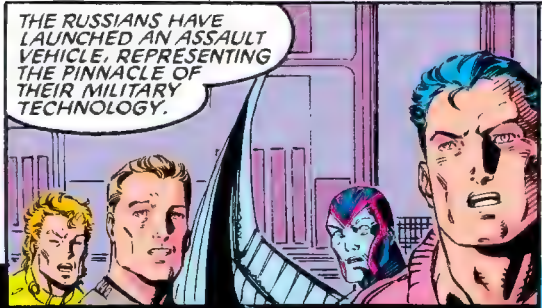
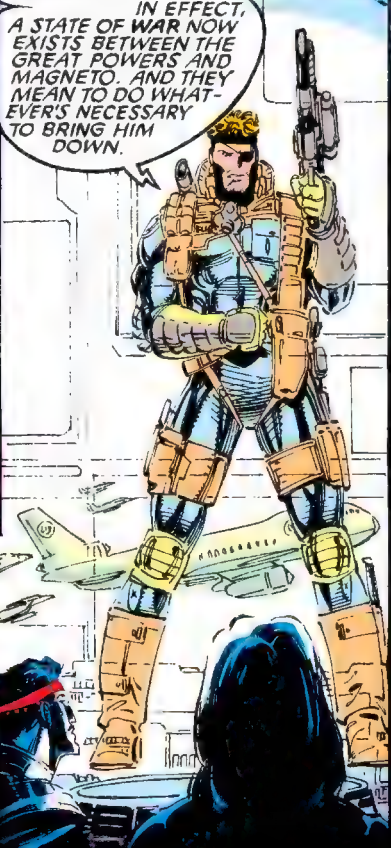
I HATE TO MAKE YOUR MORNING EVEN WORSE, BUT THIS IS A CALL I THINK WE'D BETTER TAKE.

IT'S COMING IN OVER MY PERSONAL, PRIVATE CHANNEL.

I'M BREAKIN' A WHOLE HOST O' RULES BY MAKIN' THIS CALL, FORGE, BUT I DON'T MUCH CARE.

THE DECISION'S BEEN MADE AND RATIFIED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO EXECUTE STAGE 3 OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS. IN COMPLIANCE, AMERICAN STRATEGIC FORCES HAVE GONE TO DEFCON 1. SO'VE THE RUSSIANS.

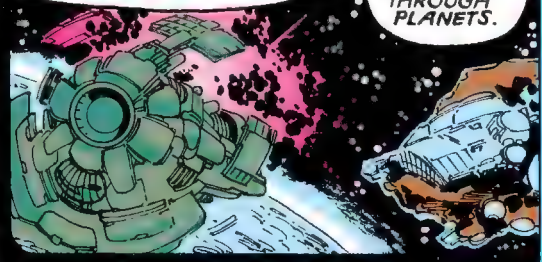
IN EFFECT, A STATE OF WAR NOW EXISTS BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS AND MAGNETO. AND THEY MEAN TO DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY TO BRING HIM DOWN.



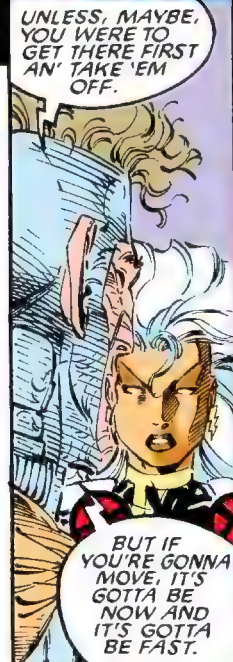
THE RUSSIANS HAVE LAUNCHED AN ASSAULT VEHICLE, REPRESENTING THE PINNACLE OF THEIR MILITARY TECHNOLOGY.

IT'S AN ENERGY CANNON, FIRING BEAMS OF ULTRA-INTENSITY NUCLEAR PLASMA. IT'S NEVER BEEN FIELD TESTED. IT'S SO POWERFUL THEY DIDN'T DARE INSIDE THE ATMOSPHERE.

IT'S THE KIND OF WEAPON A BODY'D USE TO PUNCH THROUGH PLANETS.

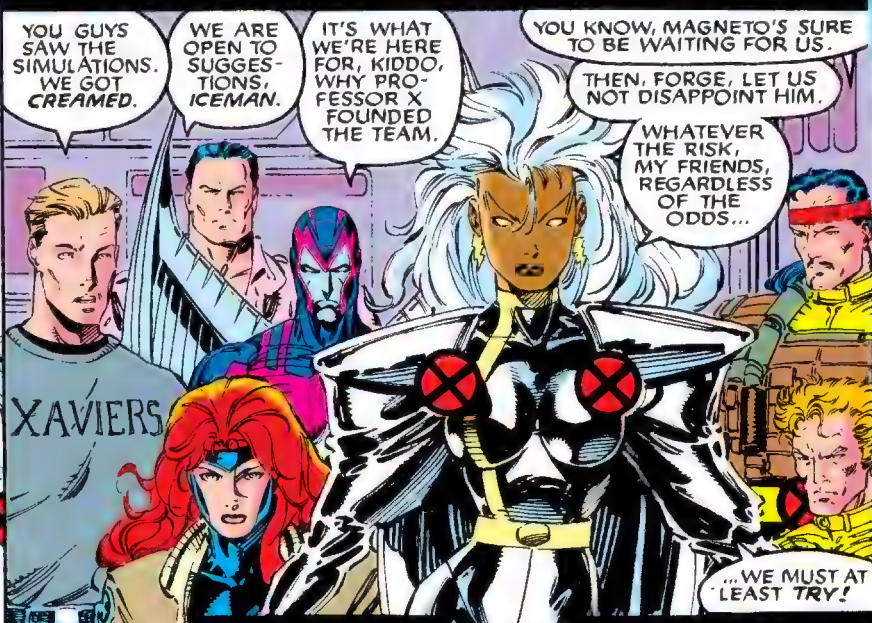


WHICH IS PRETTY MUCH JUST WHAT THEY INTEND TO DO TO MAGNETO'S ORBITING ROCK AND EVERYONE ABOARD.



UNLESS, MAYBE, YOU WERE TO GET THERE FIRST AN' TAKE 'EM OFF.

BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA MOVE, IT'S GOTTA BE NOW AND IT'S GOTTA BE FAST.



YOU GUYS SAW THE SIMULATIONS. WE GOT CREAMED.

WE ARE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS, ICEMAN.

IT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, KIDDO, WHY PROFESSOR X FOUNDED THE TEAM.

YOU KNOW, MAGNETO'S SURE TO BE WAITING FOR US.

THEN, FORGE, LET US NOT DISAPPOINT HIM.

WHATEVER THE RISK, MY FRIENDS, REGARDLESS OF THE ODDS...

...WE MUST AT LEAST TRY!

TO BE CONCLUDED!





**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**



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**\$1.00 US**  
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STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS  
CHRIS CLAREMONT'S FINAL ISSUE OF THE X-MEN:

# Fallout!

BY  
CHRIS  
CLAREMONT  
and JIM  
LEE

OFFICIALLY SPEAKING,  
FIFTY MILES HIGH IS  
WHERE SPACE BEGINS.

THE BOUNDARY ISN'T THAT PRECISE, OF  
COURSE; ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL, EARTH'S  
ATMOSPHERE GOES ON FOR QUITE A WHILE.  
FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES THOUGH,  
THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE AS HIGH AS  
HUMAN BEINGS CAN FLY IN ANYTHING  
LESS THAN A ROCKET.

SCOTT WILLIAMS  
INKER

TOM ORZECOWSKI  
LETTERER

JOE ROSAS  
COLORIST

BOB HARRAS  
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



A RESTRICTION THAT EVIDENTLY DOES NOT APPLY TO THE UNCANNY X-MEN.

I MAY HATE APOCALYPSE Y... BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, STORM, THEY ARE A PIECE OF WORK.

... BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, STORM, THEY ARE A PIECE OF WORK.

WITHOUT THEM, I COULD NEVER SOAR SO HIGH, EVEN WITH YOUR WINDS TO HELP.

STORM'S REACHED HER LIMIT.

SHE'S FOCUSED HER POWER TO ITS UTMOST, BUT THE AIR IS TOO THIN AT THIS ALTITUDE TO SUSTAIN EVEN A GHOST OF A WIND.

HER BEST IS PLENTY GOOD ENOUGH, RED. SHE'S PULLED THIS GLIDER A FAIR PIECE HIGHER THAN WE EXPECTED.

SHOULD MAKE YOUR JOB THAT MUCH EASIER.



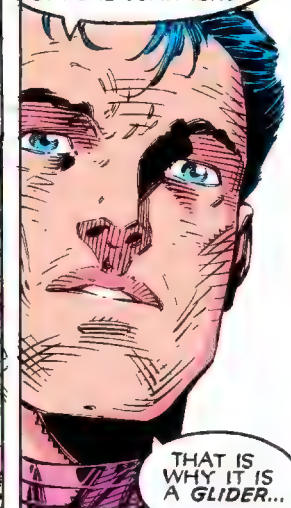
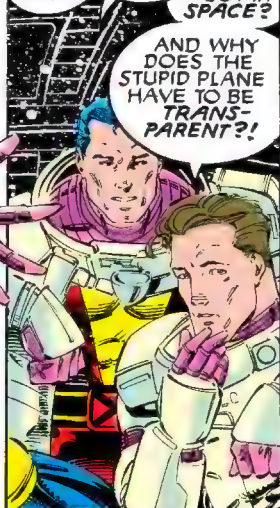
I HATE THIS. I REALLY HATE THIS.

SHTO?

I MEAN, FLYING'S BAD ENOUGH -- BUT IN SPACE?

AND WHY DOES THE STUPID PLANE HAVE TO BE TRANS-PARENT?!

FORGE SAID IT WAS TO MAKE US FUNCTIONALLY INVISIBLE, BOTH TO ELECTRONIC AND OPTICAL SCANNERS.



THAT IS WHY IT IS A GLIDER...

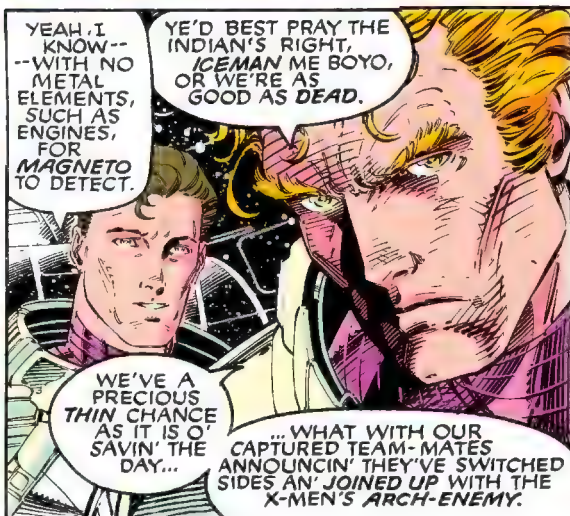
I AM AFRAID, MY FRIEND, THIS MAY BE AS FAR AS WE GO.

YEAH, I KNOW-- WITH NO METAL ELEMENTS, SUCH AS ENGINES, FOR MAGNETO TO DETECT.

YE'D BEST PRAY THE INDIAN'S RIGHT, ICEMAN ME BOYO, OR WE'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD.

WE'VE A PRECIOUS THIN CHANCE AS IT IS O' SAVIN' THE DAY...

... WHAT WITH OUR CAPTURED TEAM-MATES ANNOUNCIN' THEY'VE SWITCHED SIDES AN' JOINED UP WITH THE X-MEN'S ARCH-ENEMY.





"NOT T' MENTION  
THE **GREAT**  
POWERS DOWN  
BELOW..."

"...BOUND-AN'-  
DETERMINED TO  
TAKE A MESS  
AN' TURN IT  
INTO A ROYAL  
CATASTROPHE.

"NOT SIMPLY  
FOR US  
MUTANTS,  
BUT F'R THE  
WHOLE SAD,  
SORRY  
PLANET!"

YOU CAN'T DO  
THIS! SUPPOSE  
YOU DON'T  
DESTROY  
**ASTEROID M**,  
BUT SIMPLY  
KNOCK IT OUT  
OF ORBIT?

ANYONE WANNA  
IMAGINE THE **DAMAGE**  
THAT HUNK O' ROCK'LL  
DO WHEN IT HITS  
THE GROUND?

THE FIRING  
TRAJECTORY,  
**COLONEL FURY**,  
HAS BEEN CALCULATED  
TO BLAST  
THE TARGET AWAY  
FROM EARTH  
AND INTO DEEP  
SPACE.

AN' IF  
THEY'RE  
WRONG?

YOU  
WOULD  
RATHER  
WE DO  
**NOTHING**,  
COLONEL?

I DON'T SEE  
THE SENSE O'  
STAMPEDIN' INTO  
A COURSE OF  
ACTION WE MAY  
ALL REGRET.

**PLASMA**  
CANNON  
APPROACHING  
OPTIMUM  
FIRING  
POINT.

YOU'RE A  
SOLDIER,  
FURY. I'D'VE  
THOUGHT  
YOU, OF ALL  
PEOPLE,  
WOULD  
UNDER-  
STAND.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN,  
CHIEF  
ANDER-  
SON?

THIS IS A WAR,  
AMBASSADOR  
KAMANEV!

AND WE EITHER  
WIN IT OUTRIGHT,  
OR YIELD OUR-  
SELVES-- AND ALL  
HUMANITY-- UP TO  
MAGNETO AS  
VIRTUAL SLAVES!  
ALLOWING HIM TO  
LORD IT OVER US  
LIKE SOME  
ANCIENT GOD ON  
MOUNT OLYMPUS.

YES, PEOPLE WILL  
SUFFER AND PEOPLE  
MAY WELL DIE-- AS MY  
COUNTRYMEN HERE IN  
GENOSHA HAVE  
SUFFERED AND DIED AT  
THE HANDS OF THAT  
MUTANT MADMAN AND  
HIS PET TERRORISTS--  
BUT SOMETIMES THAT'S  
THE PRICE DEMANDED  
OF SURVIVAL.

AND  
FREEDOM!

MY  
GOVERNMENT'S  
POSITION,  
PRECISELY.

AND YOURS AS  
WELL, COLONEL FURY.

IN THIS,  
MOSCOW AND  
WASHINGTON  
ARE IN FULL  
AGREE-  
MENT.

OUR HEADS OF  
STATE ARE THE  
MAKERS OF POLICY,  
**DR. COOPER**.

WE ARE MERELY ITS  
EXECUTORS. AND OUR  
ORDERS ARE PLAIN.

DIRECTLY THE **PLASMA**  
CANNON ACHIEVES ITS  
FIRING COORDINATES,  
**ASTEROID M--** AND  
ALL ABOARD--

NO  
MATTER  
THE  
COST?

--ARE TO BE  
DESTROYED.



THEY'RE  
SERIOUS.

THEY'RE  
SCARED,  
MS. GREY.

IN WAYS WE CAN'T  
EVEN CONCEIVE OF,  
BECAUSE-- EVEN THOUGH  
WE X-MEN ARE THE GOOD  
GUYS-- WE'RE THE ONES  
THEY'RE SCARED OF.

THE FUTURE THEY SEE, JEAN, IS  
ONE WHERE THEY'RE DESTINED TO  
BE PERPETUAL VICTIMS, INNOCENTS  
CAUGHT BETWEEN BEINGS WHOSE  
POWERS THEY BARELY COMPREHEND  
AND HAVEN'T A HOPE OF MATCHING.  
WHERE THEY'LL ALWAYS BE AT  
OUR MERCY.

MUTANTS,  
SUPER-  
BEINGS,  
GODS, ALIENS,

A GUY WHO STICKS TO WALLS AT  
ONE EXTREME, A CREATURE WHO  
EATS PLANETS AT THE OTHER; EACH  
ONE THAT COMES INTO BEING,  
THEY FEEL, DIMINISHES THE  
REST OF HUMANITY, ORDINARY  
HOMO SAPIENS, THAT LITTLE  
BIT MORE.

THEY LOOK AROUND,  
THEY SEE A WORLD THAT'S  
SLIPPING MORE AND MORE  
OUT OF THEIR CONTROL.

THIS WAY, THEY  
DEMONSTRATE THEY  
MEAN BUSINESS. THEY  
MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO PUT  
THE GENETIC GENIE BACK IN  
ITS BOTTLE, BUT THEY'RE  
STILL DETERMINED TO  
BE ITS MASTER.

AND  
THEREBY  
PROVE  
MAGNETO  
RIGHT.

HOW'S  
YOUR  
PSILINK  
WITH THE  
PROF? YOU  
SURE IT  
CAN'T BE  
TAGGED?

FORGE,  
I'VE BEEN  
CHARLES  
XAVIER'S  
STUDENT  
SINCE I WAS  
A CHILD.

WE'RE  
TELE-  
PATHICALLY  
BONDED ON  
LEVELS NO  
ONE CAN  
TOUCH.

THE PROFES-  
SOR IS WELL.  
BUT THE  
SITUATION IS  
AS BAD AS WE  
FEARED.

...THEY WILL  
FIGHT US AS  
TENACIOUSLY  
AND COUR-  
AGEOUSLY  
AS THEY  
WOULD THEIR  
DEADLIEST  
FOES.

CYCLOPS  
AND HIS  
TEAM...

... HAVE  
WHOLEHEARTEDLY  
EMBRACED MAG-  
NETO'S CAUSE.  
AND IF WE DO  
NOT FOLLOW  
THEIR LEAD...





BE A MOOT POINT ONCE THAT PLASMA CANNON STARTS TAKING POT-SHOTS.

STORM AND ARCH-ANGEL ARE THROUGH THE AIRLOCK.

EVERYBODY SEAL YOUR HELMETS AND CHARGE YOUR PRESSURE SUITS.

COMIN' UP ON SHOWTIME, RED.



I'M UP TO IT, FORGE. I HAVE TO BE. THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE.

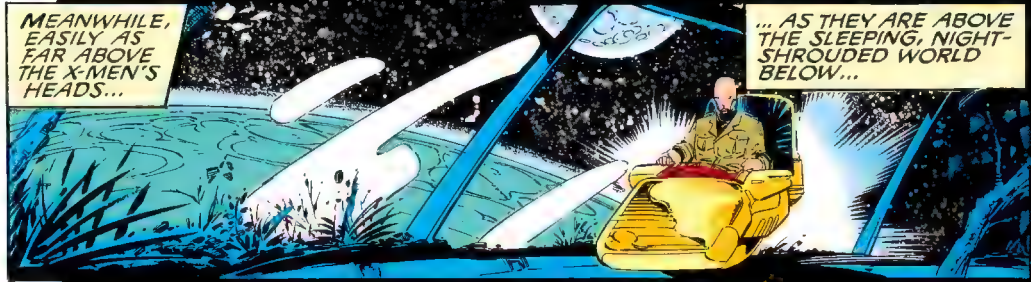
WHAT COULD THEY BE THINKING OF, USING AN ENERGY WEAPON AGAINST THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM?

ALL THEY'LL DO IS MAKE HIM MAD.

MAD, JEAN, HE MAY ALREADY BE. CERTAINLY CONSUMED BY THE DEMONS THAT HAVE HOUNDED HIM HIS WHOLE LIFE.

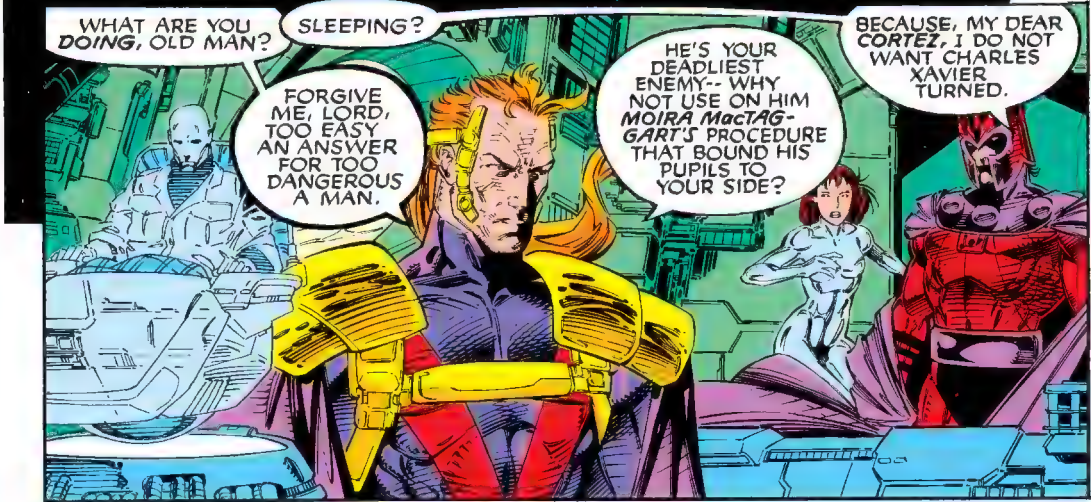
GODDESS GRANT US THE OPPORTUNITY TO END HIS MISERY ONCE AND FOR ALL.

AMEN TO THAT, BOSS LADY.



MEANWHILE, EASILY AS FAR ABOVE THE X-MEN'S HEADS...

... AS THEY ARE ABOVE THE SLEEPING, NIGHT-SHROUDED WORLD BELOW...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OLD MAN?

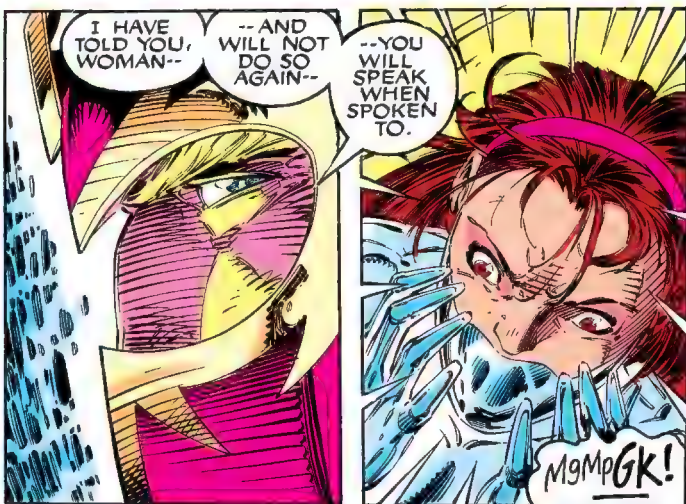
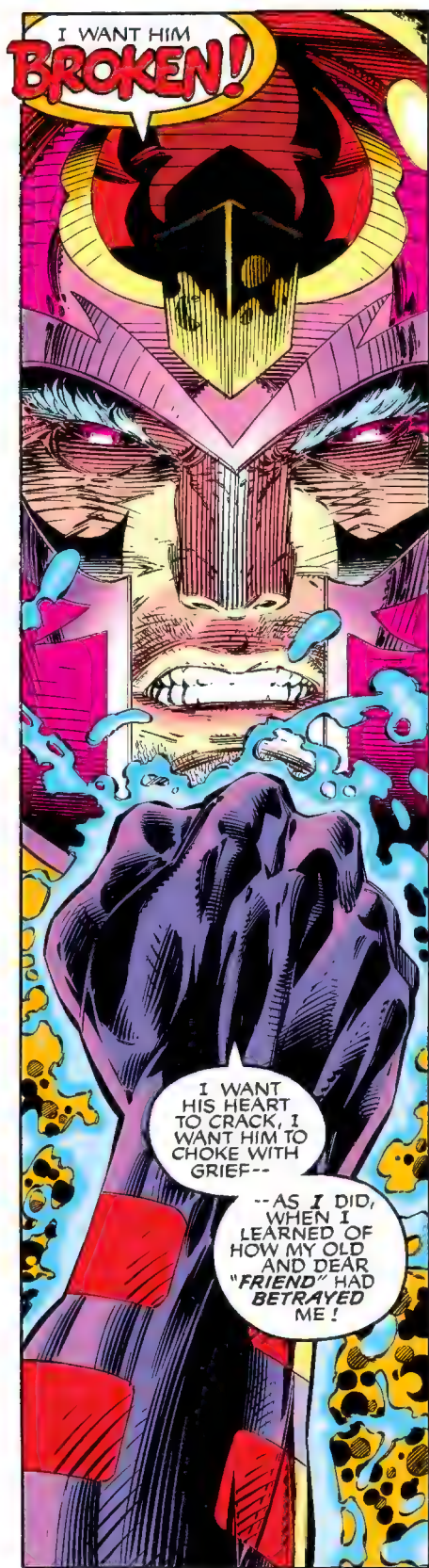
SLEEPING?

FORGIVE ME, LORD, TOO EASY AN ANSWER FOR TOO DANGEROUS A MAN.

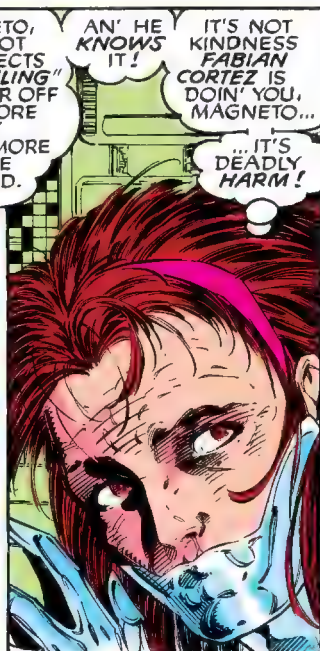
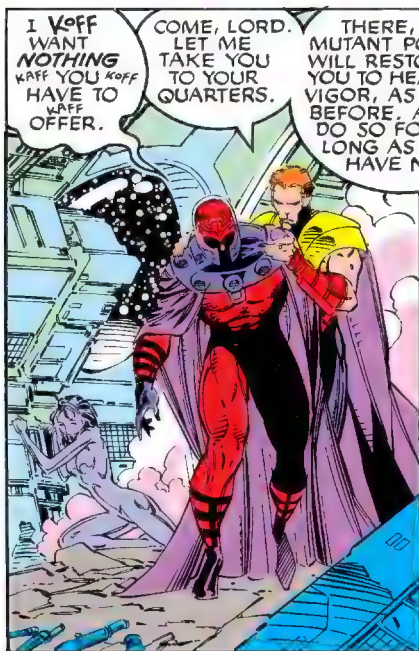
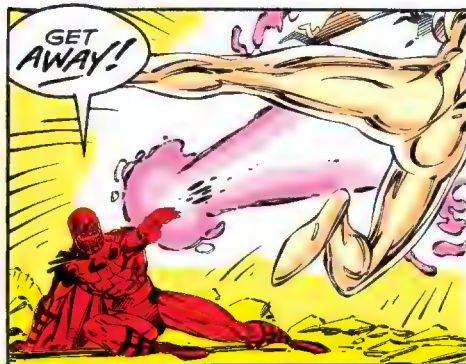
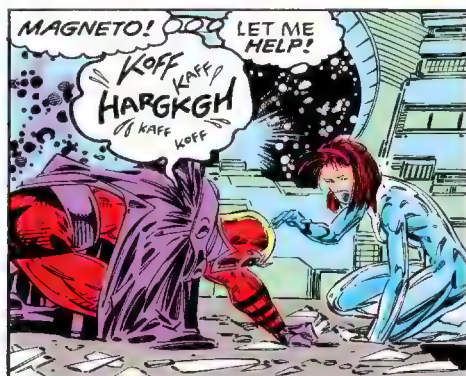
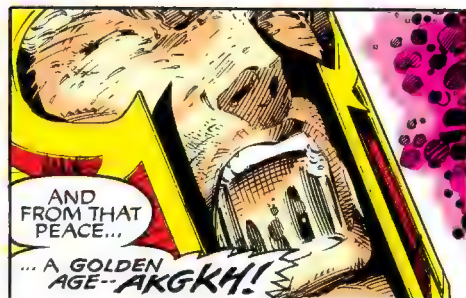
HE'S YOUR DEADLIEST ENEMY-- WHY NOT USE ON HIM MOIRA MacTAGGART'S PROCEDURE THAT BOUND HIS PUPILS TO YOUR SIDE?

BECAUSE, MY DEAR CORTEZ, I DO NOT WANT CHARLES XAVIER TURNED.









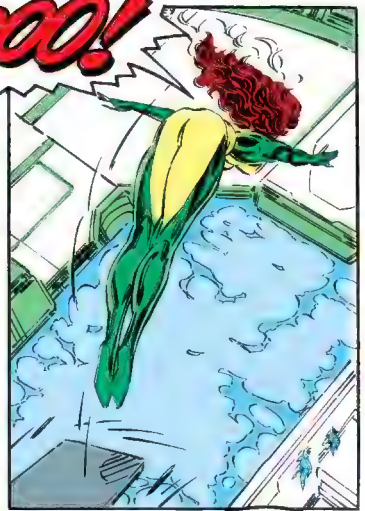


AT ROUGHLY THAT MOMENT, ELSEWHERE IN THE HUGE ASTEROID...

...CYCLOPS'S TEAM OF X-MEN ARE ASSUMING THEIR NEW ROLES AS MAGNETO'S LATEST ACOLYTES AS THOUGH BORN TO THEM.

WAH-

**HOOOO!**



NOT TOO SHABBY, THERE.

FINEST-KIND, OLYMPIC CLASS CANNONBALL.

**SPLASH!**

YOU LIKE, GAMBIT?

I LIKE THAT, AN' MORE.

BETTER WATCH IT. AH TOUCH YOUR BARE HAND WITH MINE, AH'LL ABSORB YOUR POWERS AN' PSYCHE AN' ALL YOUR MEM'RIES.

MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.

WAN' TAKE THE RISK, LI'L RIVER RAT?

I... I...



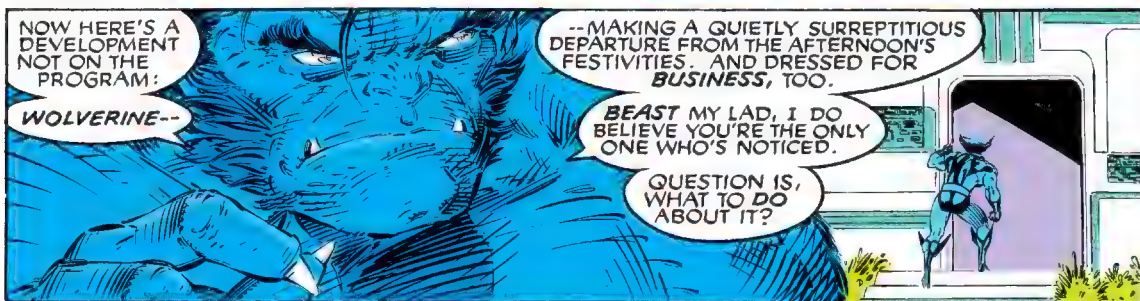
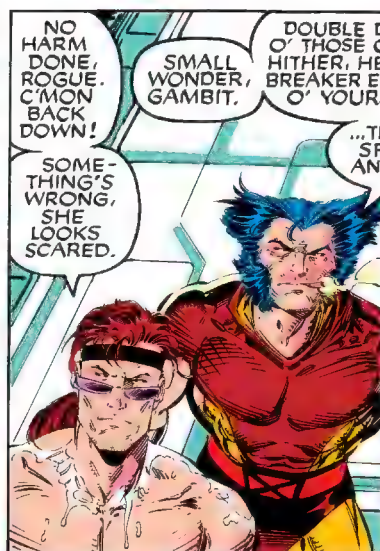
**No!**

AH'M SORRY, GAMBIT, AH-- WELL NOW, AIN'T THAT A SIGHT!

FIRST TIME-- EVER-- AH B' LIEVE...

...AH'VE SEEN THAT CAJUN CHARMER THROWN OFF-BALANCE.







THINK OF IT AS THE ULTIMATE GRAPPLING HOOK...

... A STRAND OF ENERGY CAST ACROSS THE GULF OF MILES...

... BUT THEN HOLD FAST AS JEAN, USING ONLY THE POWER OF HER THOUGHTS AND HER INNATE STRENGTH OF WILL...

... HAULS THE GLIDER UPWARDS, HAND OVER MENTAL HAND...

... KNOWING THAT THE SLIGHTEST SLIP, THE MOST MOMENTARY WEAKNESS, WILL DOOM THEM ALL.

BY HEAVEN--!

IF ONLY I COULD ADD MY PSYCHIC STRENGTH TO MINE.

BUT MAGNETO'S INHIBITORS PREVENT MY UTILIZING MY OWN PSIONIC POWERS.

"IN THIS CASE, MY DEAR CHILD CAN DEPEND ON NONE BUT HERSELF."

THERE'S SOMETHIN' OUT THERE!

SO FAINT THOUGH I CAN BARELY SEE IT.

... THAT MUST NOT ONLY LATCH ONTO ASTEROID M AS IT SWINGS PAST ALONG ITS ORBITAL TRACK...

COMPANY COMIN', MOIRA?

WOLVERINE!

Oh NO  
**NO!**

COMIN' TO THE RESCUE, ARE THEY?

CAN'T SAY THAT'S MUCH OF A SURPRISE.

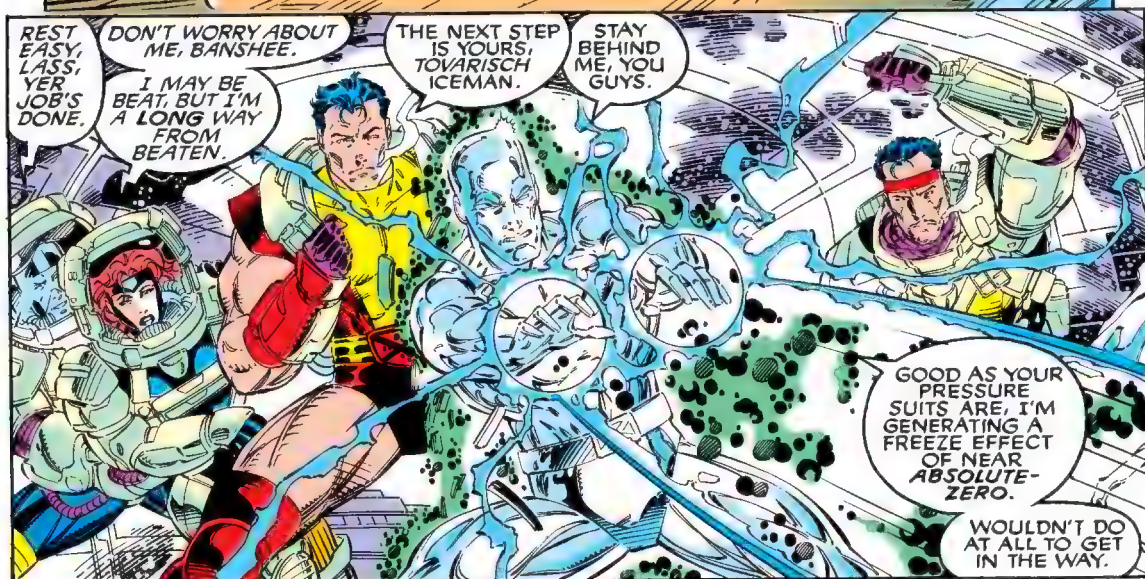
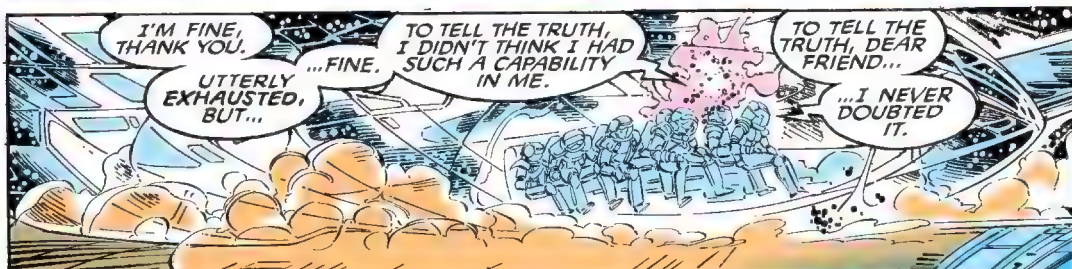
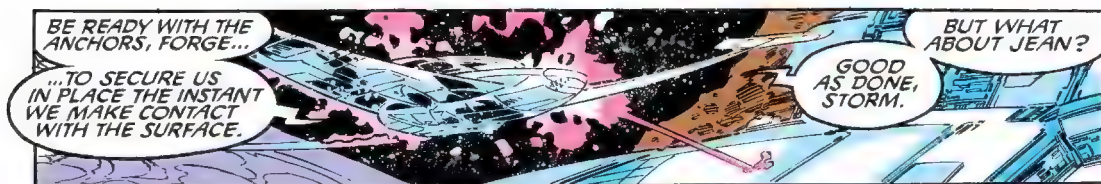
TRANSPARENT PLANE. STORM'S IDEA. FORGE'S DOING, I'LL BET.

VERY SNEAKY. I LIKE THAT.

**SNKT!**

BETTER MAKE SURE WE GIVE 'EM THE WELCOME THEY DESERVE.









YOUR PARDON, SIR, WE ARE HERE TO SEE A MAN ABOUT A RESCUE.

PITY. I WAS HOPING FOR A PIZZA DELIVERY.

IS PROFESSOR XAVIER UNWELL, STORM?

HE IS MAKING A JOKE!



CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, PETER, THE MAN IS ONLY HUMAN.

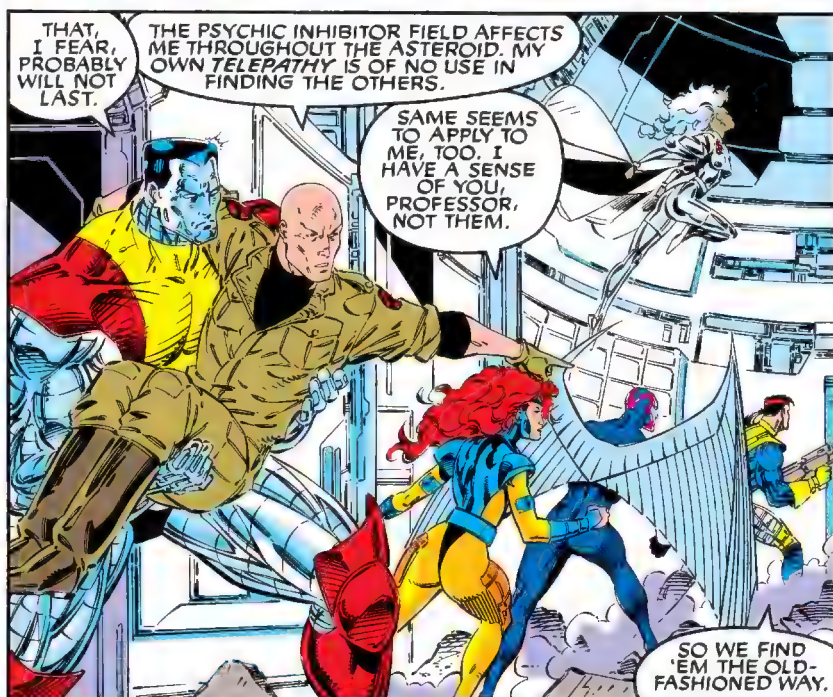
COMPLETE WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR.

SUCH AS IT IS.

ET TU, ARCH-ANGEL?

DON'T I GET RESPECT ANYMORE FROM ANYONE?

LOCATION SECURE, BOSS. SCANNERS CLEAN. INTERNAL ALARMS INERT. SO FAR, SO GOOD.



THAT, I FEAR, PROBABLY WILL NOT LAST.

THE PSYCHIC INHIBITOR FIELD AFFECTS ME THROUGHOUT THE ASTEROID. MY OWN TELEPATHY IS OF NO USE IN FINDING THE OTHERS.

SAME SEEMS TO APPLY TO ME, TOO. I HAVE A SENSE OF YOU, PROFESSOR, NOT THEM.

SO WE FIND 'EM THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.



NOT NECESSARY, FORGE.



WE'VE ALREADY FOUND YOU!



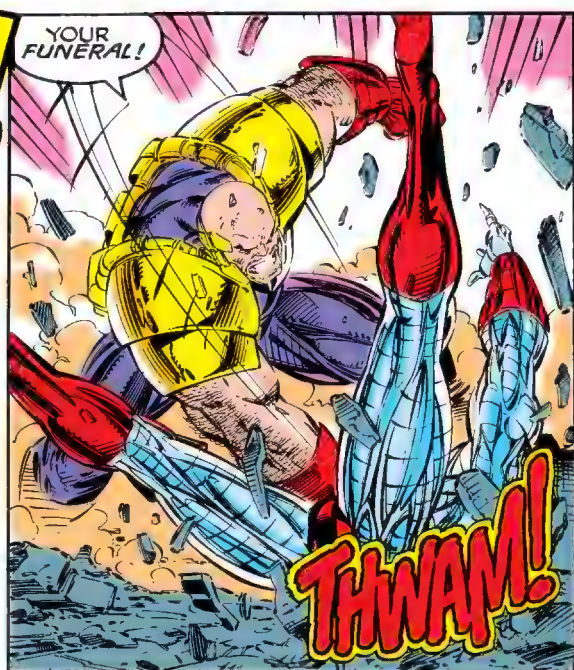
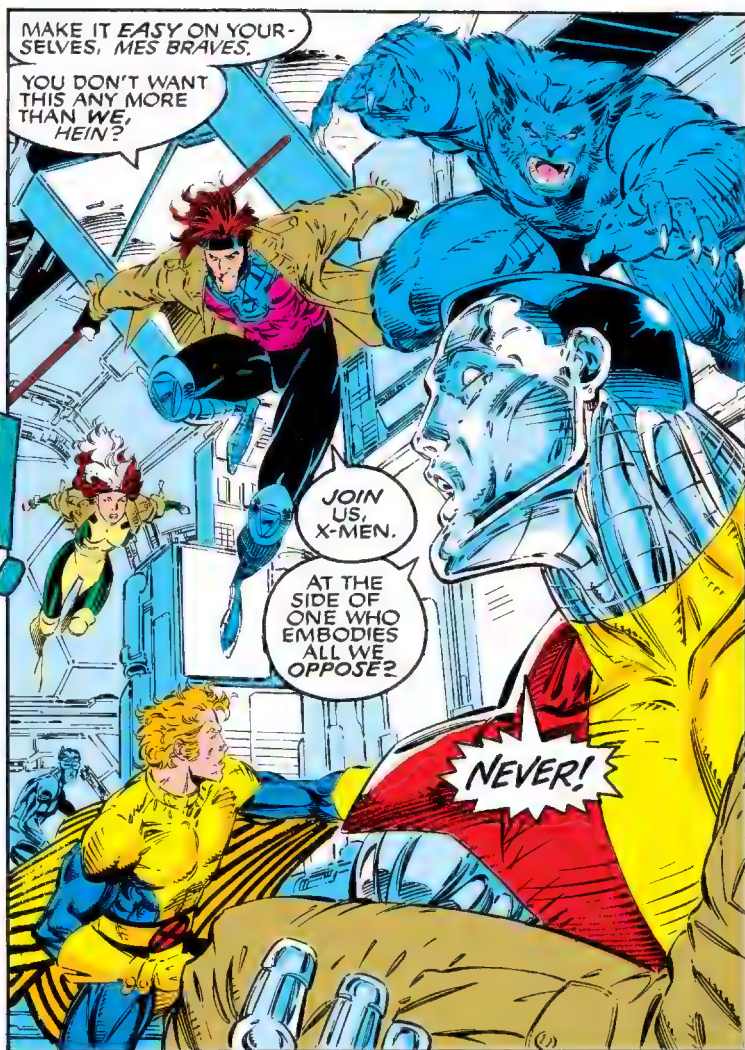
SO TELL ME, RED--

-- IS MY KISS AS MUCH FUN...

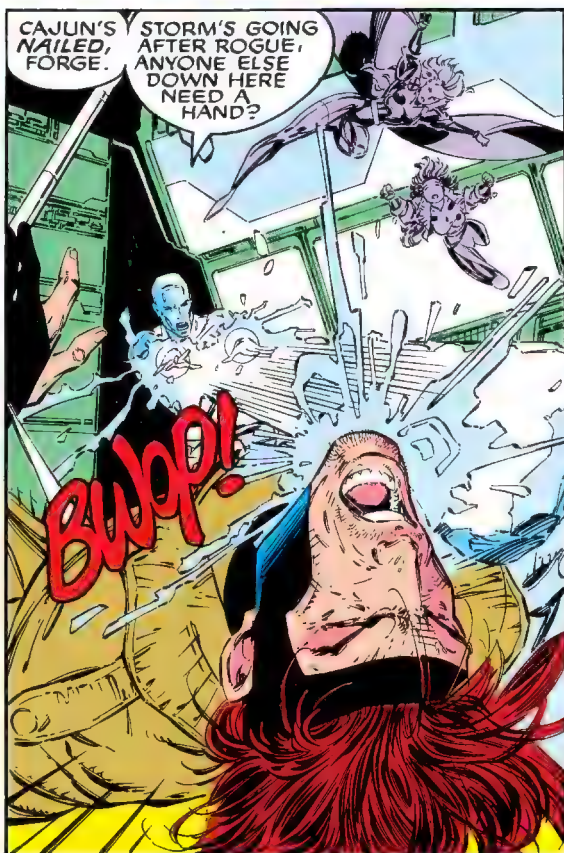
...AS WOLVERINE'S?

CYCLOPS!?!?













REGRETTABLY, THOUGH, ANY POSSIBLE DELIVERANCE FROM YOUR TEAM-MATES...

You!

...WILL COME TOO LATE!



Wugh!

BUT PSYLOCKE'S OUT-SMARTED HERSELF. FOR WHILE HER PSYCHIC KNIFE DOES INDEED DISRUPT THE STRUCTURE OF ICEMAN'S BRAIN...



...IT ALSO TRIGGERS AN UN-CONTROLLABLE, BROAD-BAND OUTBURST OF ENERGY FROM HIM THAT LEAVES EVERYTHING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY SHEETED IN ICE-- INCLUDING HER.



MEANWHILE...

TK'S STILL TOO WEAK TO DEFEND MYSELF.

MY TELEPATHY'S ALLOWING ME TO ANTICIPATE SCOTT'S TARGETS A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE HE FIRES...

... BUT I CAN'T MAINTAIN THIS PACE. MY BODY'S TIRING TOO MUCH TO KEEP DODGING HIS OPTIC BLASTS.



CYCLOPS-- ALL OF YOU--

--STOP!

ROGUE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

HAVE YOU BETRAYED THE CAUSE, TOO?!!

ZARK!

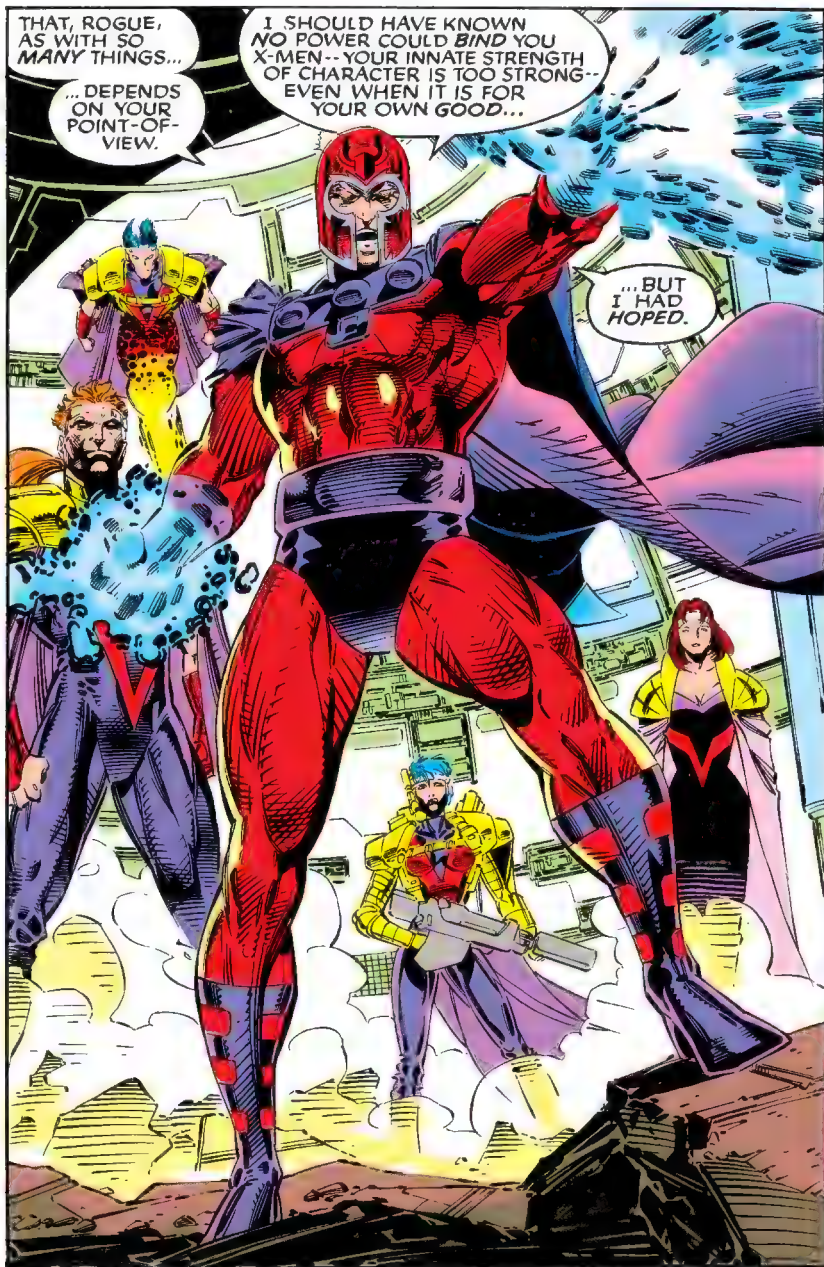
WAIT--  
--THIS IS INSANE--  
-- WHAT AM I DOING?!

AIN'T ALT'GETHER SURE MYSELF...

'CEPT WE'RE SIDIN' WITH OUR DEADLIEST FOES AGAINST OUR NEAREST AN' DEAREST...

... AN' THAT AIN'T NATURAL!









**ENOUGH!**

I WILL HAVE  
NEITHER MY PERSON  
NOR MY HOME  
FURTHER  
DESPOILED.

I DID NOT  
WISH YOU  
HARM,  
X-MEN...

... BUT I  
CAN NOT AFFORD  
TO ALLOW  
MY FURTHER  
OPPRESSION.



CAN'T YOU SEE? AFTER  
ALL THESE YEARS,  
STILL DO YOU NOT  
UNDERSTAND?!

WHEN ALL IS  
SAID AND  
DONE, YOUR  
DREAM,  
MAGNETO, CAN-  
NOT ENDURE...

... BECAUSE  
IT WILL FOR-  
EVER BE  
TAINTED...

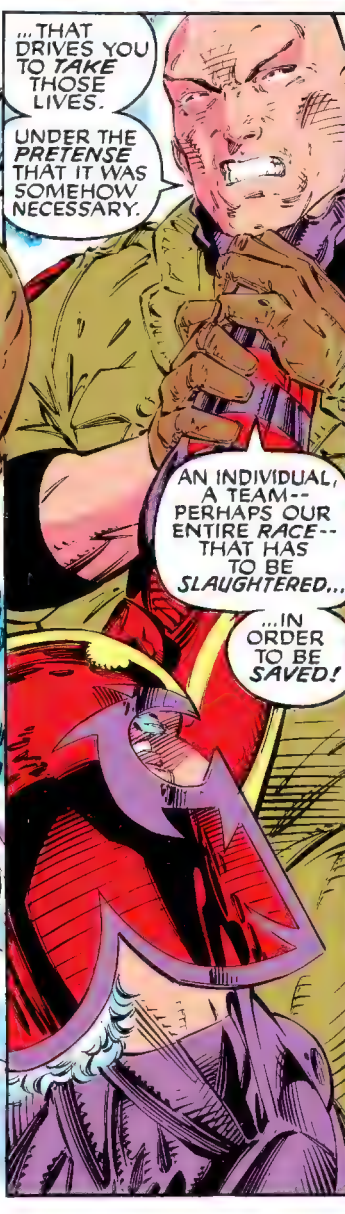


YOU  
DARE  
CONDEMN ME,  
XAVIER!

AFTER  
WHAT  
YOU'VE  
DONE!

... BY THE BLOOD OF  
THOSE YOU'VE SACRIFICED  
ALONG THE WAY!

AND  
POISONED  
AS WELL  
BY THE  
RAGE...

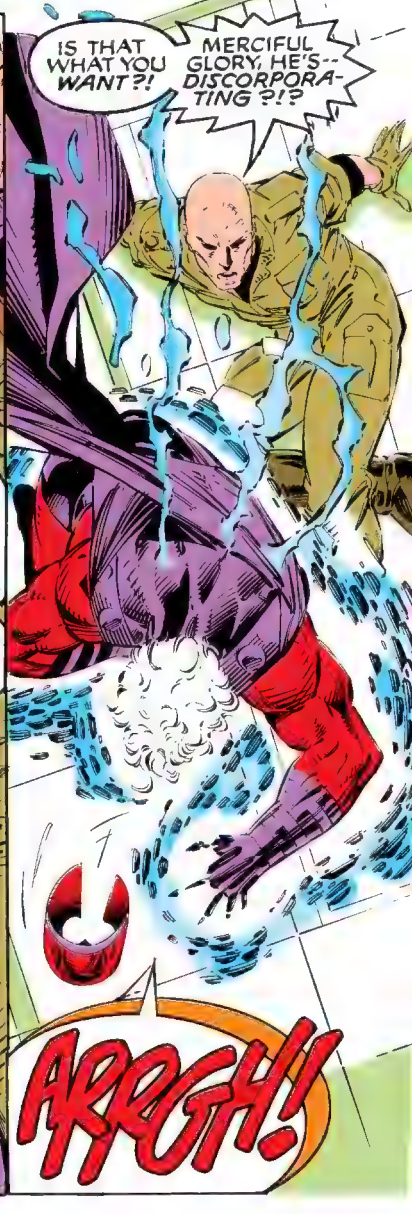


... THAT  
DRIVES YOU  
TO TAKE  
THOSE  
LIVES.

UNDER THE  
PRETENSE  
THAT IT WAS  
SOMEHOW  
NECESSARY.

AN INDIVIDUAL,  
A TEAM--  
PERHAPS OUR  
ENTIRE RACE--  
THAT HAS  
TO BE  
SLAUGHTERED...

...IN  
ORDER  
TO BE  
SAVED!

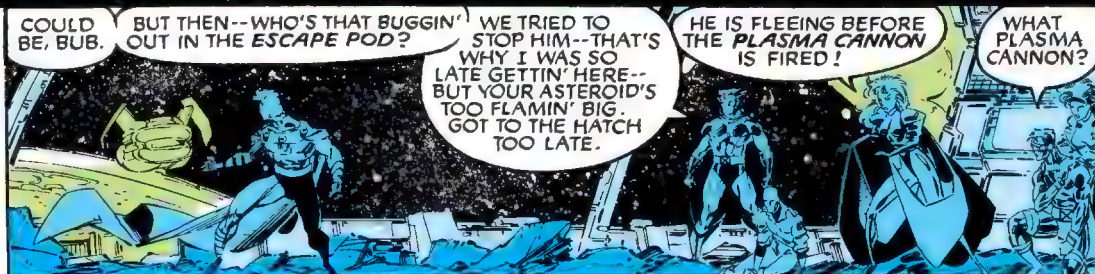
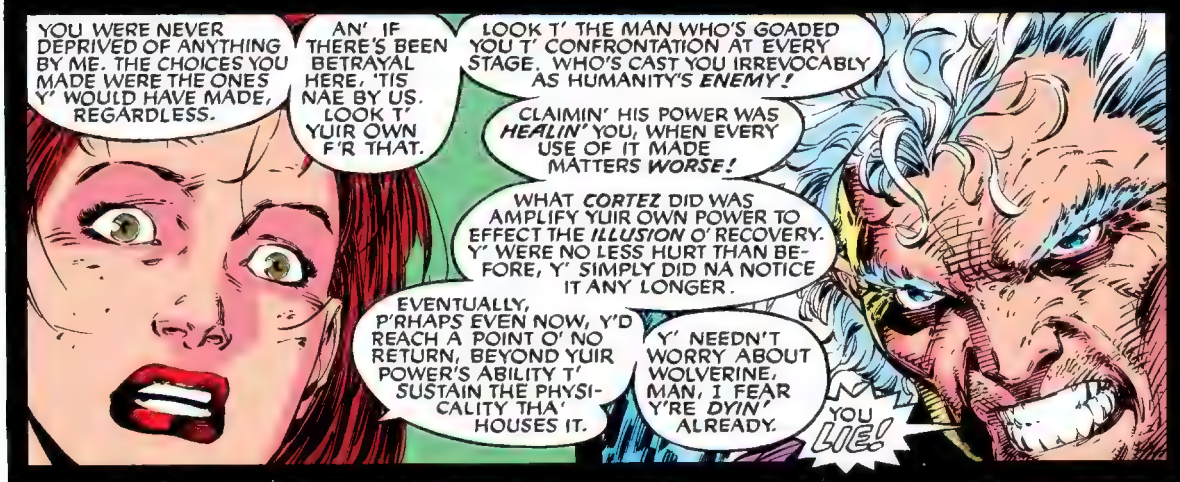
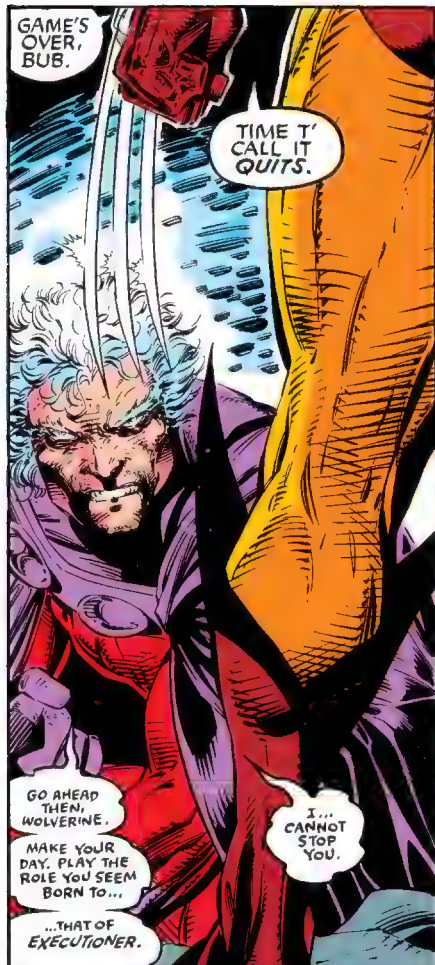


IS THAT  
WHAT YOU  
WANT?!

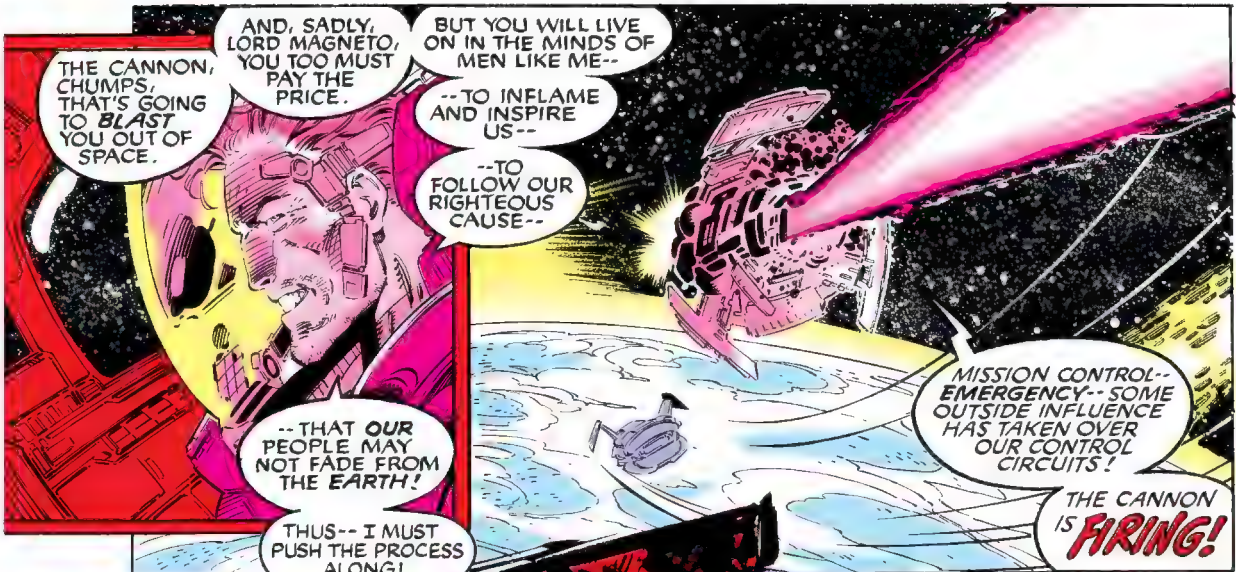
MERCIFUL  
GLORY. HE'S--  
DISCORPORAT-  
ING?!

**ARRGH!!**









THE CANNON, CHUMPS, THAT'S GOING TO BLAST YOU OUT OF SPACE.

AND, SADLY, LORD MAGNETO, YOU TOO MUST PAY THE PRICE.

BUT YOU WILL LIVE ON IN THE MINDS OF MEN LIKE ME--

--TO INFLAME AND INSPIRE US--

--TO FOLLOW OUR RIGHTEOUS CAUSE--

--THAT OUR PEOPLE MAY NOT FADE FROM THE EARTH!

THUS-- I MUST PUSH THE PROCESS ALONG!

MISSION CONTROL-- EMERGENCY-- SOME OUTSIDE INFLUENCE HAS TAKEN OVER OUR CONTROL CIRCUITS!

THE CANNON IS **FIRING!**

WITH, AS PREDICTED, AS FEARED, DEVASTATING RESULTS.

THE BEAM BURNS THROUGH SOLID ROCK AS THOUGH THE ASTEROID HAD NO MORE SUBSTANCE THAN A CLOUD.

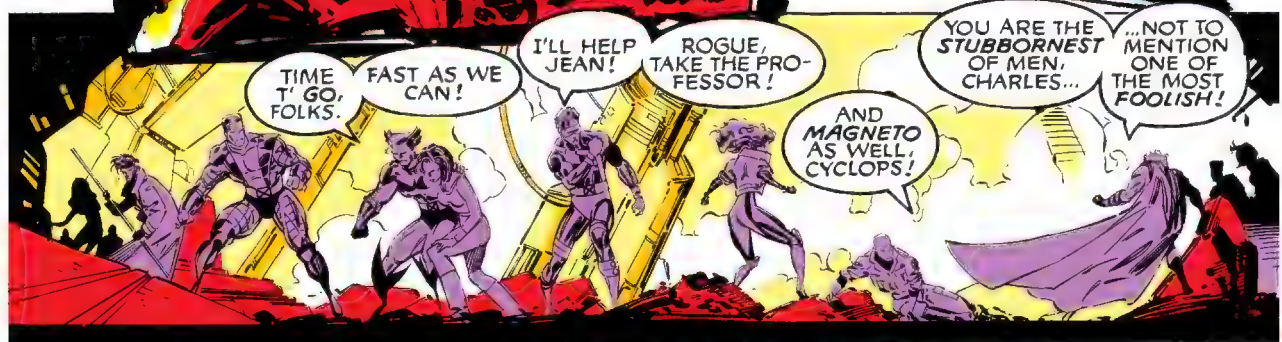
AND BECAUSE ITS INTERNAL SYSTEMS-- INDEED, IN SOME MEASURE, THE PHYSICAL FABRIC OF THE PLANETOID-- ARE LINKED WITH MAGNETO HIMSELF...

... HE IS STRUCK AS HARD, PERHAPS EVEN AS FATALLY, AS HIS HOME.

A... MASTERFUL STRATAGEM. IN ADDITION TO THE PLASMA BEAM, CORTEZ ATTEMPTED TO SIMULTANEOUSLY IGNITE THE NUCLEAR WARHEADS...

... OF THE MISSILES I HAD ARRAYED ABOUT MY ASTEROID AS A DEFENSIVE MEASURE.

I HAVE MAGNETICALLY... DISABLED THE TRIGGERS. THE WEAPONS ARE USELESS.



TIME T' GO, FOLKS.

FAST AS WE CAN!

I'LL HELP JEAN!

ROGUE, TAKE THE PROFESSOR!

AND MAGNETO AS WELL, CYCLOPS!

YOU ARE THE STUBBORNEST OF MEN, CHARLES...

...NOT TO MENTION ONE OF THE MOST FOOLISH!



I HAVE ENCLOSED THE ASTEROID WITH AN ENERGY SHIELD, TO DEFLECT ANY FURTHER ATTACKS.

IT TAKES MY TOTAL CONCENTRATION TO MAINTAIN THE INTERNAL PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY OF THIS COMPLEX.

HERE I AM, HERE I WILL REMAIN.

IF YOU WON'T SAVE YOURSELF, AT LEAST THINK OF YOUR FOLLOWERS.

THERE'S ROOM IN THE X-WING, COME WITH US, I BEG YOU!

NO.

THEY HAVE MADE THEIR **FREE CHOICE**, CHARLES. SO HAVE I.

MY LIFE WAS SHAPED BY FORCES AND EVENTS NONE OF YOU CAN POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND.

YOU SPEAK TO THE **BEST** IN HUMANITY. I HAVE ENDURED THE **WORST**.

YOU **IMAGINE** THE REALITY OF THE **HOLOCAUST**, OF THE **NAZI DEATH CAMPS**. I GREW UP IN ONE.

PERHAPS, AS YOU SAY, I **AM** TAINTED BY BLOOD AND RAGE-- AND DEATH.

BUT PERHAPS AS WELL, THAT BLOOD AND RAGE AND DEATH COMPRISE THE **ARMOR** THAT WILL **SUSTAIN** ME AND THOSE WHO STAND BY ME THROUGH THE ORDEAL TO COME.

THE PAST IS PROLOGUE, OLD FRIEND. AND THE FUTURE I BEHOLD FOR YOU IS...

...**WAR**.

WE HAVE **ALREADY CHOSEN** OUR PATH.

CHOSEN **WHAT--** A LEGACY TO OUR CHILDREN OF UN-ENDING CONFLICT?

ARE YOUR HEART AND SOUL SO **BLACK**?

PROFESSOR, WE GOTTA GO!

IT'S NO USE TALKIN', AH SEE THAT NOW.

Y'ALL MAY USE THE SAME WORDS, BUT YOU DON'T SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE. AH WONDER IF Y'EVER DID.

LEAVE ME **BE**, ROGUE! I WON'T **PERMIT** THIS!

THAT DECISION, CHARLES, IS NOT YOURS TO MAKE.

FAREWELL, MY OLD FRIEND.

WHATEVER COMES, I AND MINE WILL NOT GO LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER-- BUT LIKE **TIGERS**.

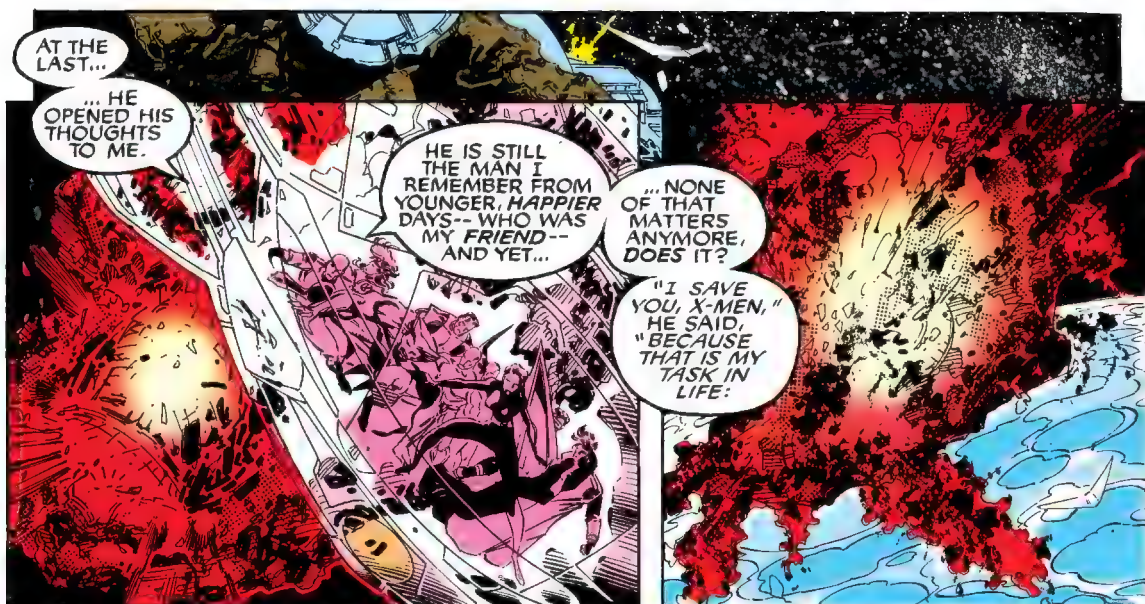
NO-- **MAGNETO--** THIS ISN'T THE ANSWER, IT ISN'T THE WAY--

WE'RE ABOARD, STORM! HATCH IS SEALED TIGHT!

GET US **OUTTA** HERE!

**NO!**





AT THE  
LAST...

... HE  
OPENED HIS  
THOUGHTS  
TO ME.

HE IS STILL  
THE MAN I  
REMEMBER FROM  
YOUNGER, HAPPIER  
DAYS-- WHO WAS  
MY FRIEND--  
AND YET...

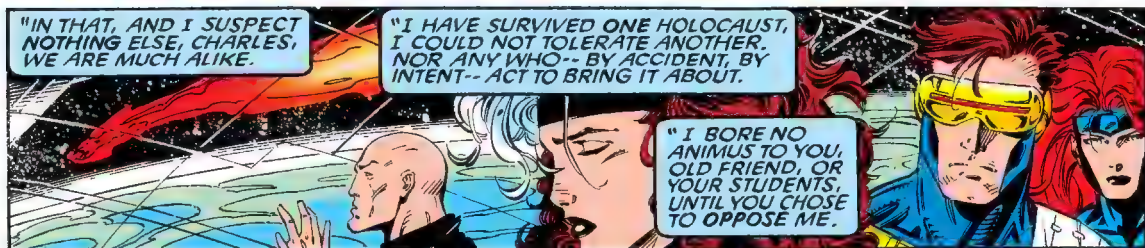
... NONE  
OF THAT  
MATTERS  
ANYMORE,  
DOES IT?

"I SAVE  
YOU, X-MEN,"  
HE SAID,  
"BECAUSE  
THAT IS MY  
TASK IN  
LIFE:



"...TO SAFEGUARD MY PEOPLE--  
HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR--  
MUTANTKIND-- FROM THOSE  
WHO WOULD DO US HARM.

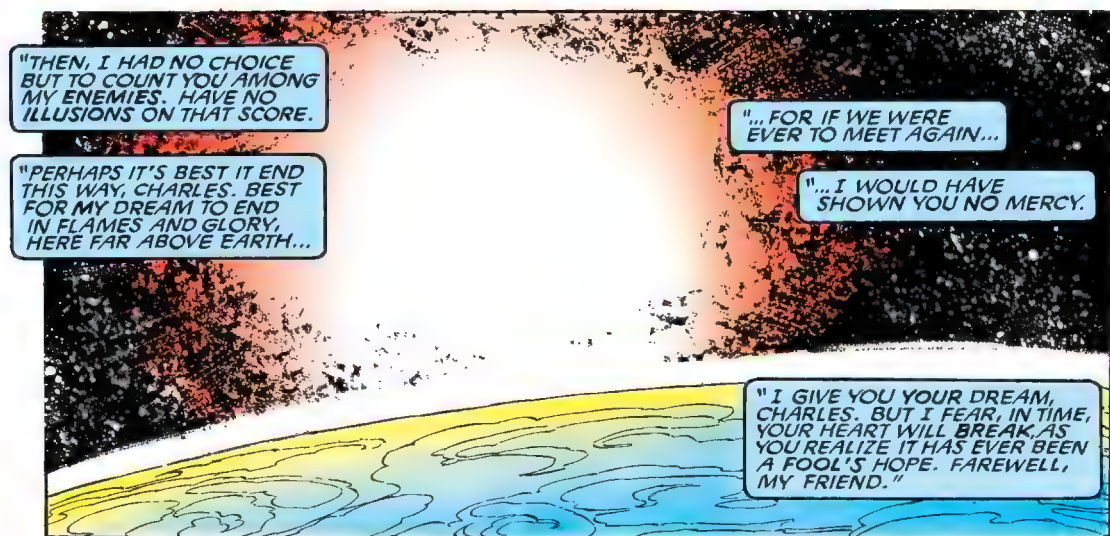
"AND THOSE  
FORCES ARE  
LEGION.



"IN THAT, AND I SUSPECT  
NOTHING ELSE, CHARLES,  
WE ARE MUCH ALIKE.

"I HAVE SURVIVED ONE HOLOCAUST,  
I COULD NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER.  
NOR ANY WHO-- BY ACCIDENT, BY  
INTENT-- ACT TO BRING IT ABOUT.

"I BORE NO  
ANIMUS TO YOU,  
OLD FRIEND, OR  
YOUR STUDENTS,  
UNTIL YOU CHOSE  
TO OPPOSE ME.



"THEN, I HAD NO CHOICE  
BUT TO COUNT YOU AMONG  
MY ENEMIES. HAVE NO  
ILLUSIONS ON THAT SCORE.

"PERHAPS IT'S BEST IT END  
THIS WAY, CHARLES. BEST  
FOR MY DREAM TO END  
IN FLAMES AND GLORY,  
HERE FAR ABOVE EARTH...

"... FOR IF WE WERE  
EVER TO MEET AGAIN...

"... I WOULD HAVE  
SHOWN YOU NO MERCY.

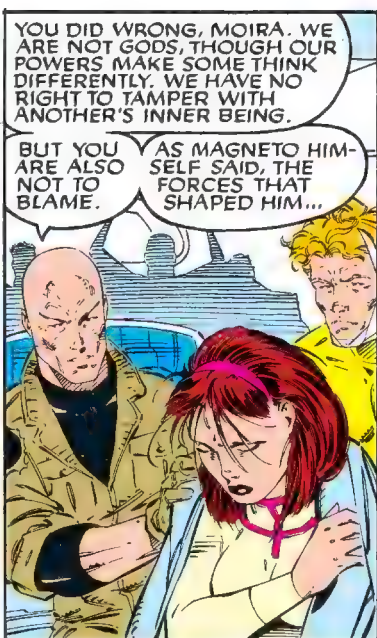
"I GIVE YOU YOUR DREAM,  
CHARLES. BUT I FEAR, IN TIME,  
YOUR HEART WILL BREAK, AS  
YOU REALIZE IT HAS EVER BEEN  
A FOOL'S HOPE. FAREWELL,  
MY FRIEND."





GOTTA SAY THIS FOR THE MAN--

--HE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE AN EXIT.



YOU DID WRONG, MOIRA. WE ARE NOT GODS, THOUGH OUR POWERS MAKE SOME THINK DIFFERENTLY. WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO TAMPER WITH ANOTHER'S INNER BEING.

BUT YOU ARE ALSO NOT TO BLAME.

AS MAGNETO HIMSELF SAID, THE FORCES THAT SHAPED HIM...



...DID THEIR WORK LONG BEFORE THE X-MEN WERE EVEN BORN.

NOW PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME TO DO SOME SHAPING OF OUR OWN.

TO ACT ON THE STAGE OF HISTORY.



LIKE MAGETO, WE HAVE MADE CHOICES IN OUR LIVES. WE HAVE TAKEN OUR STAND FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE IN. WE WERE BOTH HAUNTED MEN, HIM BY A NIGHTMARE, ME BY A DREAM.

TIME WILL TELL WHICH OF US WAS RIGHT.

HIS CHOICE WAS EVER FUELED BY RAGE, TAINTED BY THE DESPAIR THAT SCARS HIS SOUL.

AS OURS, I PRAY, WILL BE SUSTAINED BY HOPE.

WE HAVE IT WITHIN OURSELVES, X-MEN-- AS DO ALL PEOPLE, WHETHER MUTANTS OR NO-- TO LEAVE OUR WORLD BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT.

TO STRIVE FOR THE HEIGHTS OF OUR POTENTIAL, TO SEEK OUT THE BEST IN OURSELVES AND IN OTHERS, WHERE MAGNETO WOULD HAVE AUTOMATICALLY ASSUMED THE WORST.



YES, THAT IS AN IDEAL. PERHAPS AN UNATTAINABLE ONE. BUT SUCCESS IN THIS IS NOT WHAT IS IMPORTANT.

WHAT MATTERS IS THE ATTEMPT, AND OUR POWERS, OUR ROLE AS HEROES-- PERHAPS EVEN THE SIMPLE FACT THAT WE LIVE-- GIVES US THE OBLIGATION TO TRY.

CSC • 1976-1991 • FIN

**NEXT: OMEGA RED!**



**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**

\$1.00 US

\$1.25 CAN

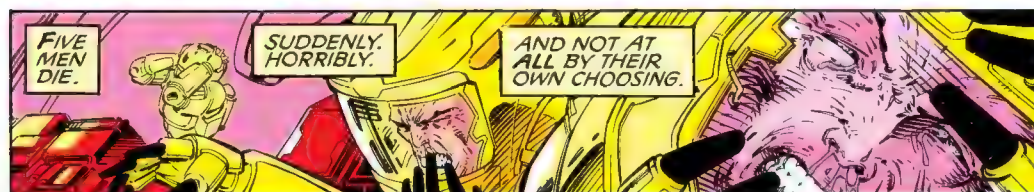
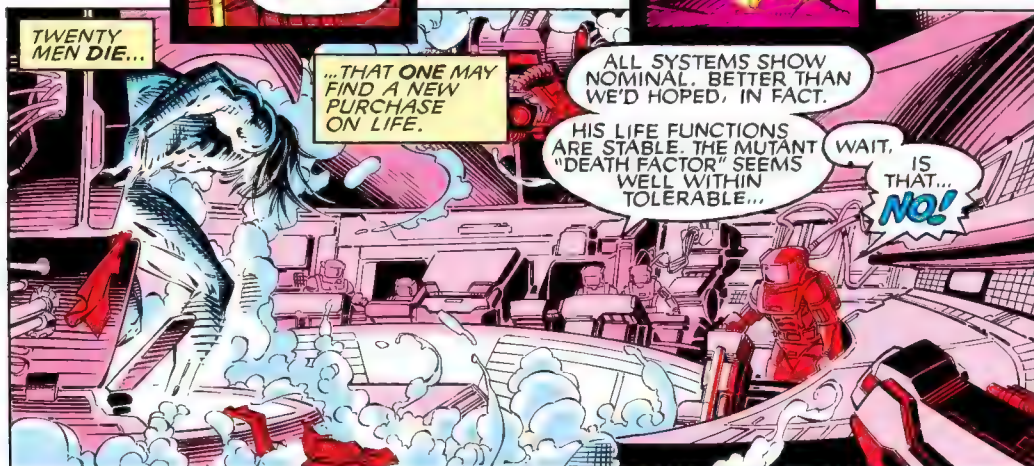
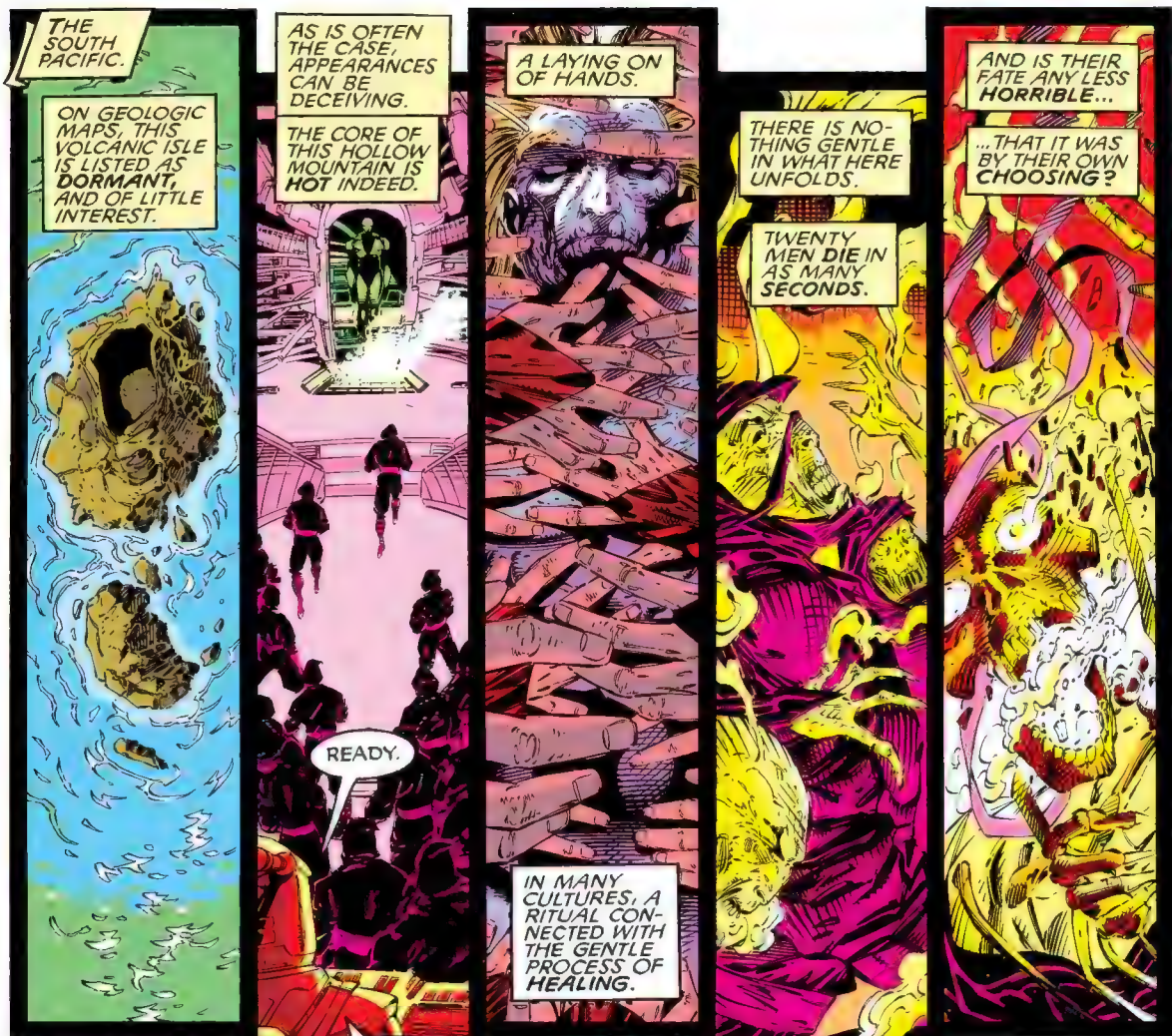
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JAN

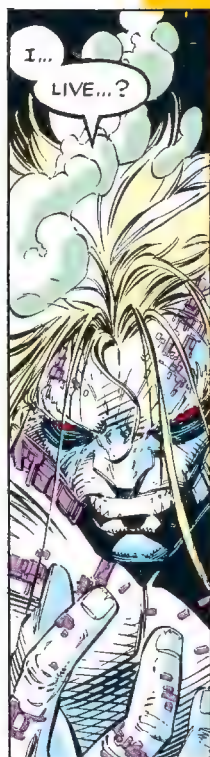
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BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY





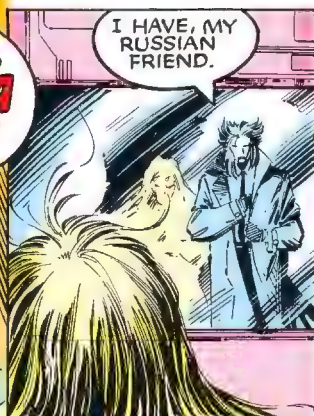




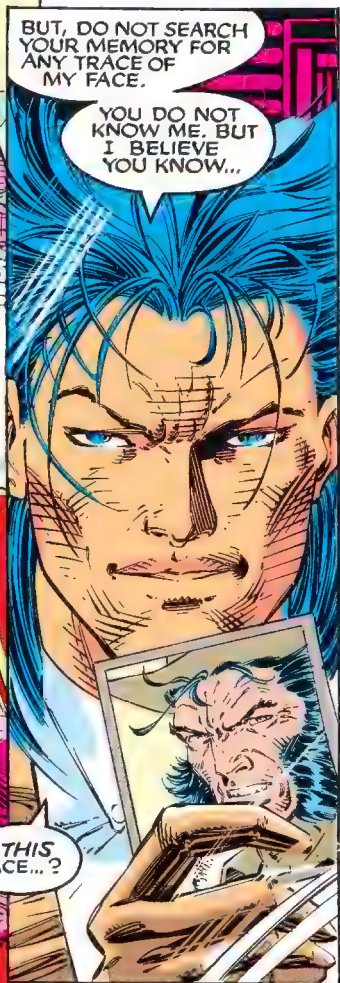
I...  
LIVE...?

HOW?  
WHO HAS  
BROUGHT ME  
BACK FROM  
THE DARK  
DOMAIN OF  
DEATH?

WHO HAS  
SUMMONED  
**OMEGA  
RED?**



I HAVE, MY  
RUSSIAN  
FRIEND.



BUT, DO NOT SEARCH  
YOUR MEMORY FOR  
ANY TRACE OF  
MY FACE.

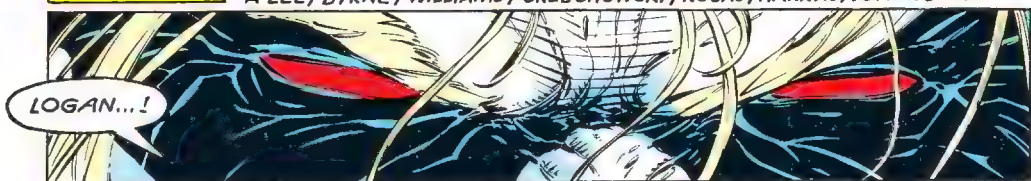
YOU DO NOT  
KNOW ME. BUT  
I BELIEVE  
YOU KNOW...

...THIS  
FACE...?

STAN LEE  
PRESENTS AN  
ADVENTURE OF  
THE X-MEN

# THE RESURRECTION AND THE FLESH

A LEE / BYRNE / WILLIAMS / ORZECOWSKI / ROSAS / HARRAS / DEFALCO EPIC



LOGAN...!



**"LOGAN!!"**

ECHOES  
FADE QUICKLY IN THE  
CHAMBER OF DEATH.

BUT THE FURY BURNS UNDIMMED,  
AS, ALMOST AS FAR AWAY AS THE  
CURVATURE OF THE WORLD WILL  
ALLOW, IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY,  
NEW YORK...

...THE FOCUS OF THAT FURY  
IS CONSIDERABLY LESS  
THAN HAPPY...

GAMBIT...

...ONE OF THESE  
DAYS YOU ARE GOING  
TO PUSH YOUR LUCK  
TOO FAR, BOY.

AN' YOU,  
FRIEND  
LOGAN...

...ARE  
GOIN' TO  
EXPLODE IF  
YOU DO NOT  
LEARN TO  
RELAX,  
NO?

YEAH!  
LIGHTEN UP,  
WOLVIE.  
IT'S ONLY  
A GAME.

THEN  
LET'S PLAY  
TH' GAME,  
JUBILEE.

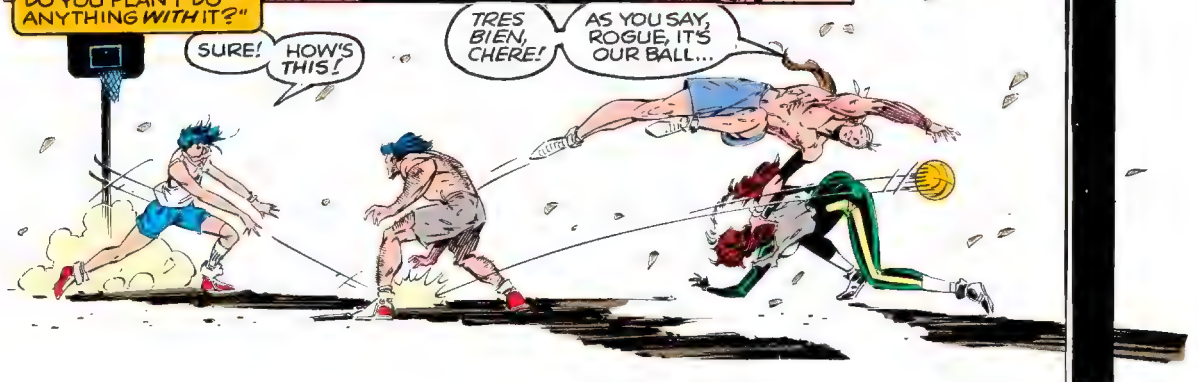
"YOU HAVE THE BALL.  
DO YOU PLAN T' DO  
ANYTHING WITH IT?"

SURE!

HOW'S  
THIS!

TRES  
BIEN,  
CHERE!

AS YOU SAY,  
ROGUE, IT'S  
OUR BALL...





AN' OUR  
POINT, eh?

**Whoa!**

LIKE--THAT WAS PRETTY FAST  
FOR SOMEONE WHO AGREED NOT  
TO USE HER POWERS, ROGUE!

DON'T  
FLATTER  
YOURSELF,  
JUBILEE!

I DON'T  
NEED MY  
POWERS  
TO --

HEADS  
UP,  
CAJUN!

**HEY!**

IT'S  
YOUR  
BALL  
AGAIN!

BUT  
NOT FOR  
LONG.

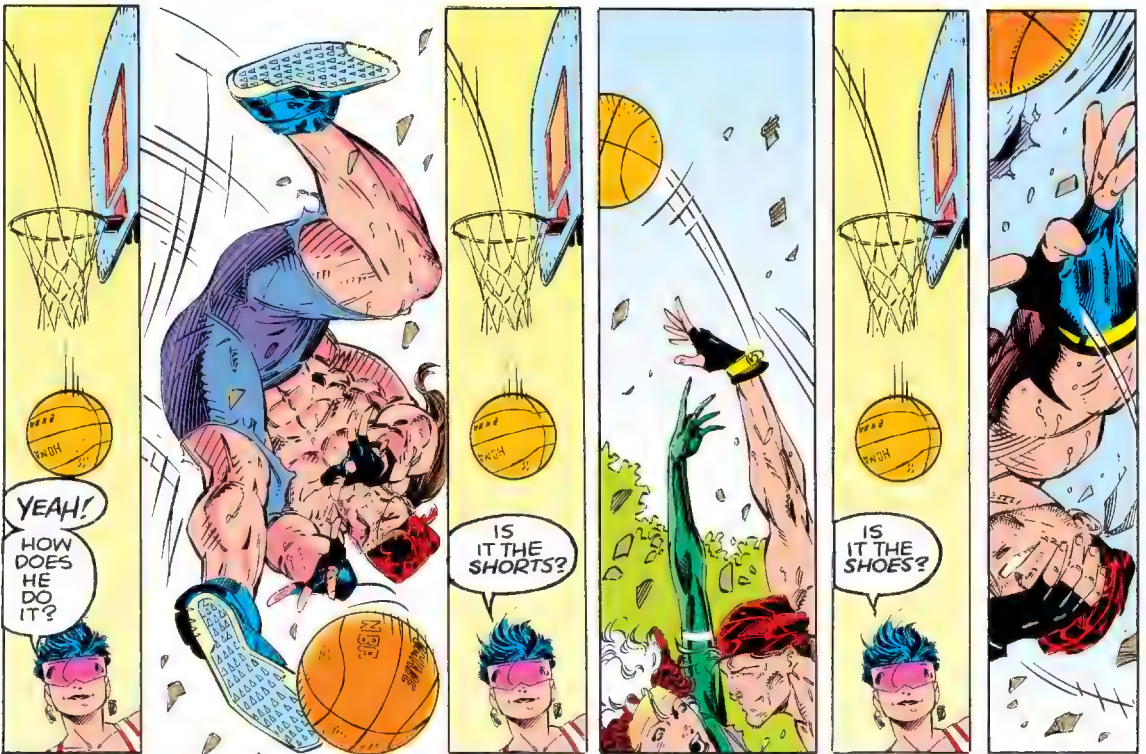
YOU'RE  
GETTING JUST  
A LITTLE TOO  
PLEASED WITH  
YOURSELF,  
GAMBIT.

AND  
WHEN THAT  
HAPPENS...

...GAMES  
GET  
LOST.

I  
COULD  
NOT AGREE  
MORE,  
M'SIEU  
SERVAL.

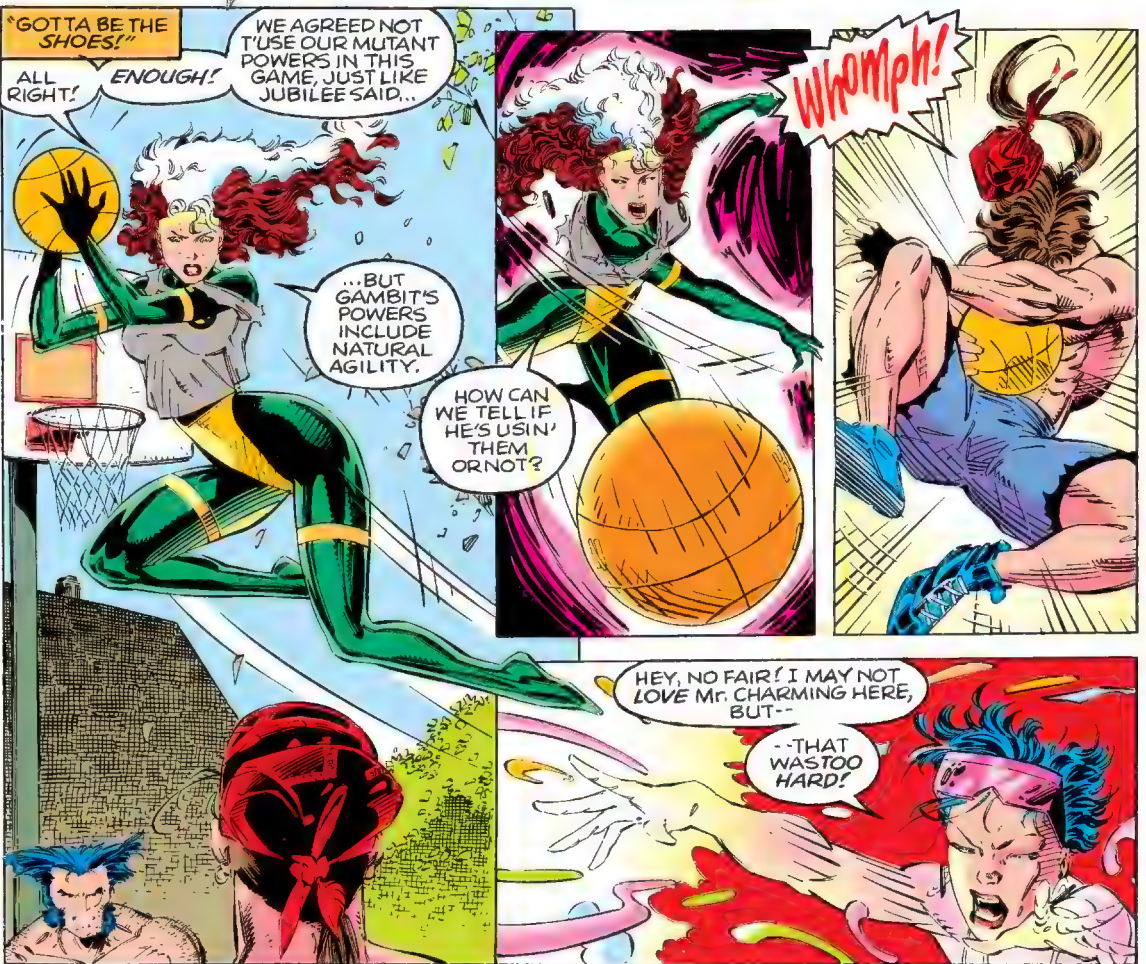




YEAH!  
HOW  
DOES  
HE  
DO  
IT?

IS  
IT  
THE  
SHORTS?

IS  
IT  
THE  
SHOES?



"GOTTA BE THE  
SHOES!"  
ALL  
RIGHT!  
ENOUGH!

WE AGREED NOT  
T'USE OUR MUTANT  
POWERS IN THIS  
GAME, JUST LIKE  
JUBILEE SAID...

...BUT  
GAMBIT'S  
POWERS  
INCLUDE  
NATURAL  
AGILITY.

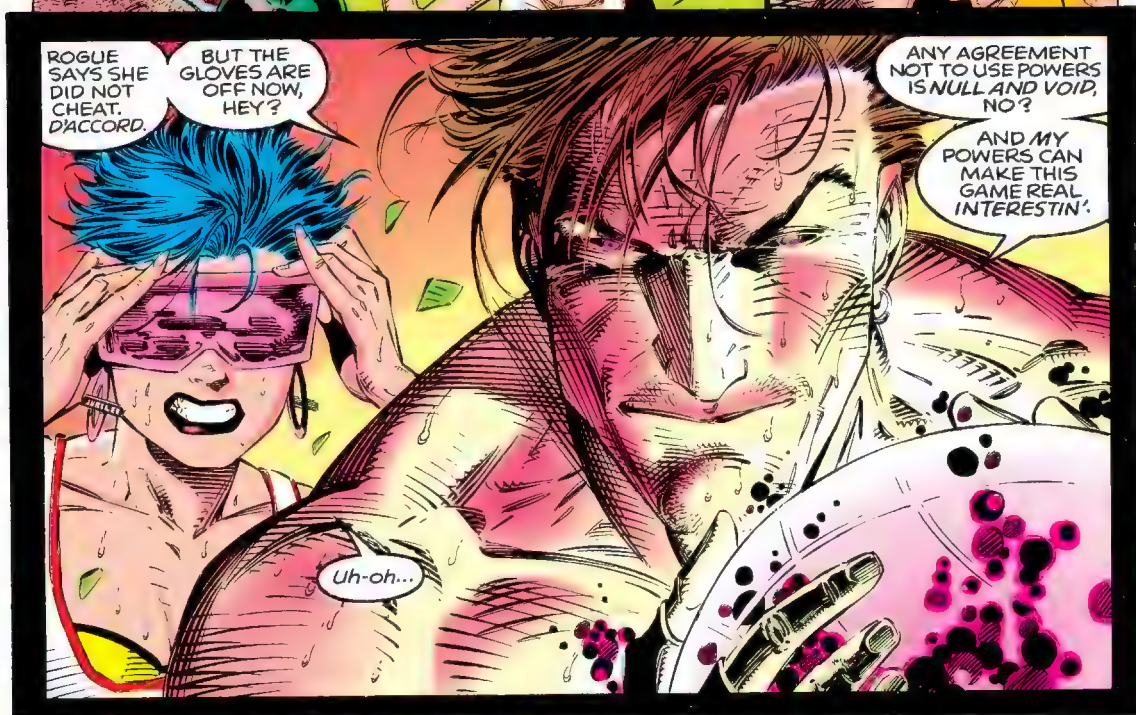
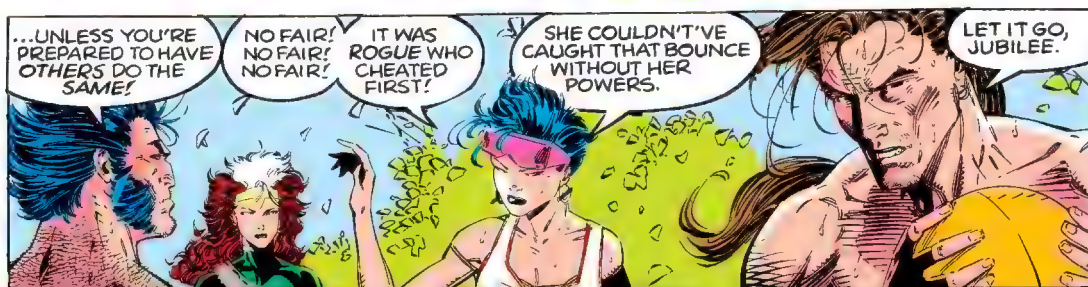
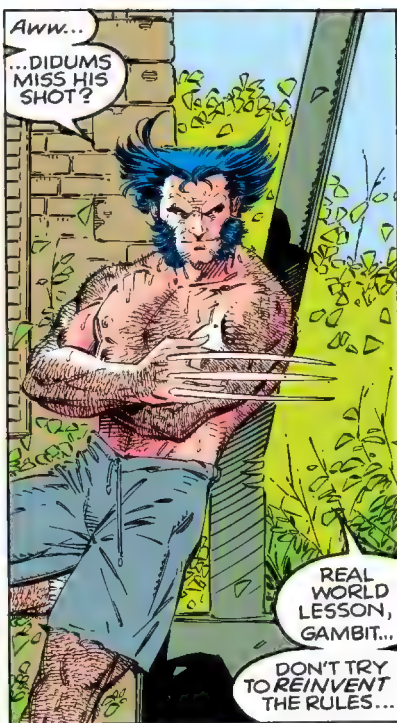
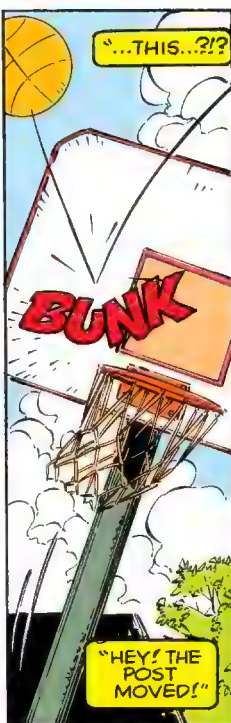
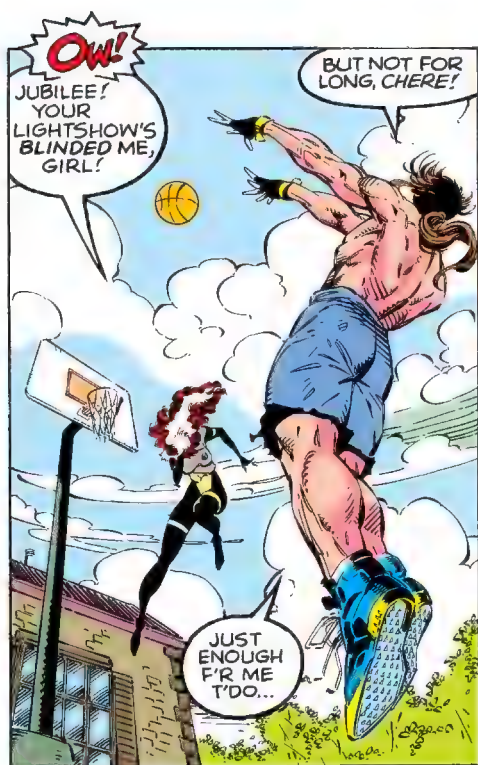
HOW CAN  
WE TELL IF  
HE'S USIN'  
THEM OR NOT?

Whomph!

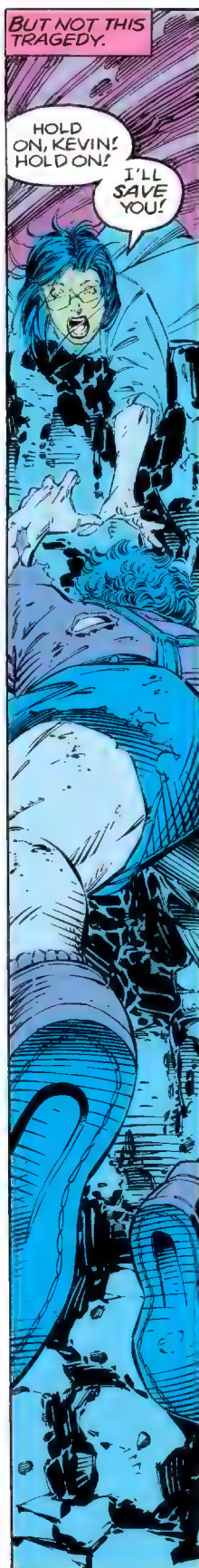
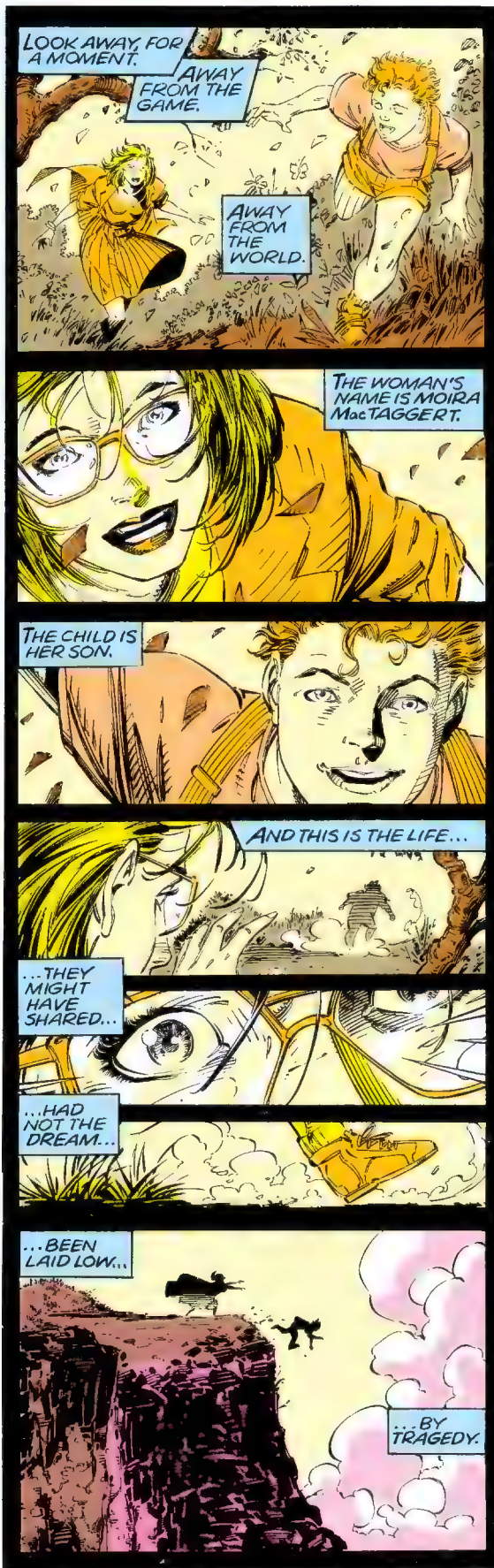
HEY, NO FAIR! I MAY NOT  
LOVE Mr. CHARMING HERE,  
BUT--

--THAT  
WAS TOO  
HARD!

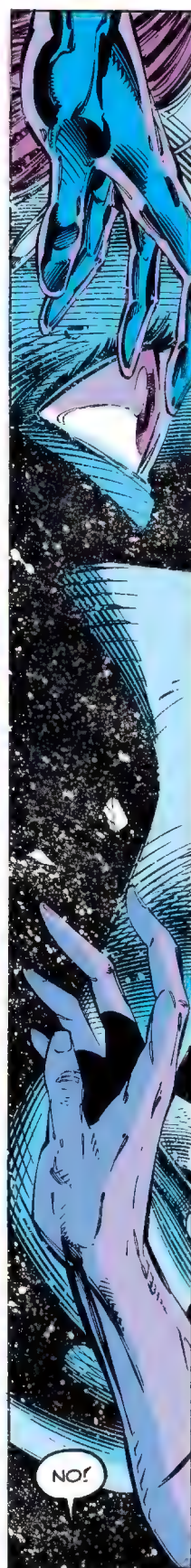




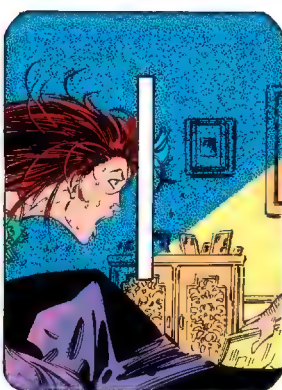
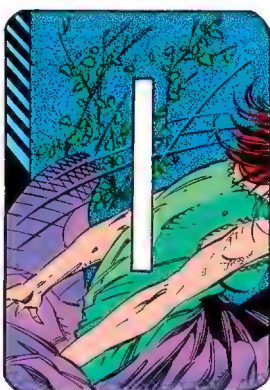












...SEAN...

**SEAN!**

IT IS YOU.

I THOUGHT...

I SAW...

**BANSHEE!**

**MOIRA!**

FORGIVE THE INTRUSION, BUT I SENSED YOUR MOUNTING ANGUISH EVEN BEFORE YOU SCREAMED, MOIRA.

I WAS NOT DELIBERATELY MINDSCANNING YOU...

...BUT THE EMOTION WAS SO POTENT I COULD NOT ENTIRELY SCREEN IT OUT.

SEAN, YOU CANNOT TALK WITH YOUR BROKEN JAW WIRED SHUT, BUT MOIRA NEEDS TO HEAR YOUR LOVING VOICE.

I SHALL USE MY TELEPATHIC ABILITIES TO FORM A MIND-BRIDGE BETWEEN THE THREE OF US AND MOIRA.

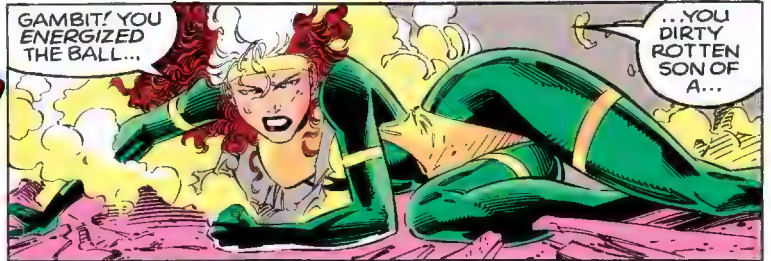
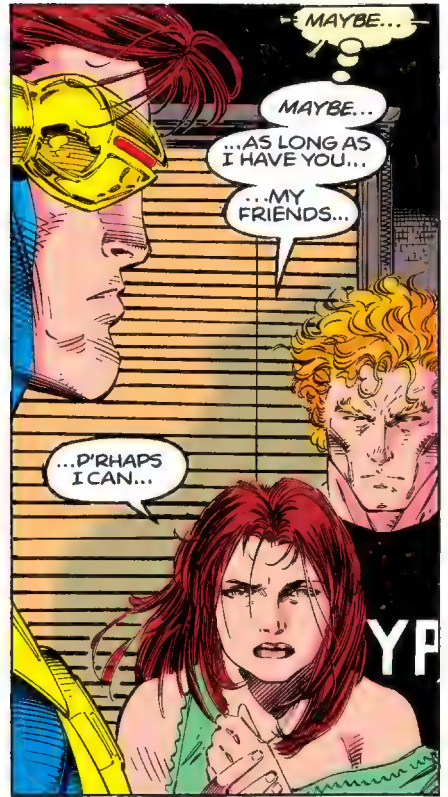
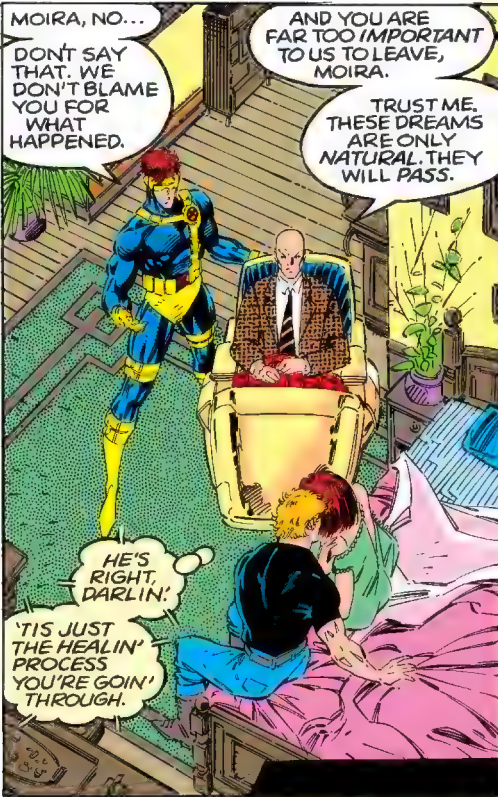
SHE'S TOO DISTRAUGHT TO COMMUNICATE WITH US BY ANY OTHER MEANS.

I UNDERSTAND, CHARLES.

MOIRA! MOIRA ME DARLIN'! CAN Y'HEAR ME?

GOT TO... LEAVE.







**BERLIN.**

CAPITAL OF A NEWLY UNIFIED GERMANY, AND TEMPORARY HOME OF ANDREA AND ANDREAS VON STRUCKER...

...COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS FENRIS...

...A DARK NAME OUT OF DARKER MYTHOLOGY.

A NAME WHICH ONLY HINTS AT THE SHADOWS CROUCHED ABOUT THEIR SOULS.

WELL?

A FEW... UNANTICIPATED FATALITIES.

BUT OTHERWISE, A SUCCESSFUL VENTURE.

THOUGH ONE WHICH I HAVE FINANCED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON MY OWN.

I DO NOT NEED TO REMIND YOU...

INDEED, YOU DO NOT.

OUR AGREEMENT IS STILL BINDING, MATSUO, NEVER FEAR.

WE NEED YOUR RESURRECTED CHAMPION...

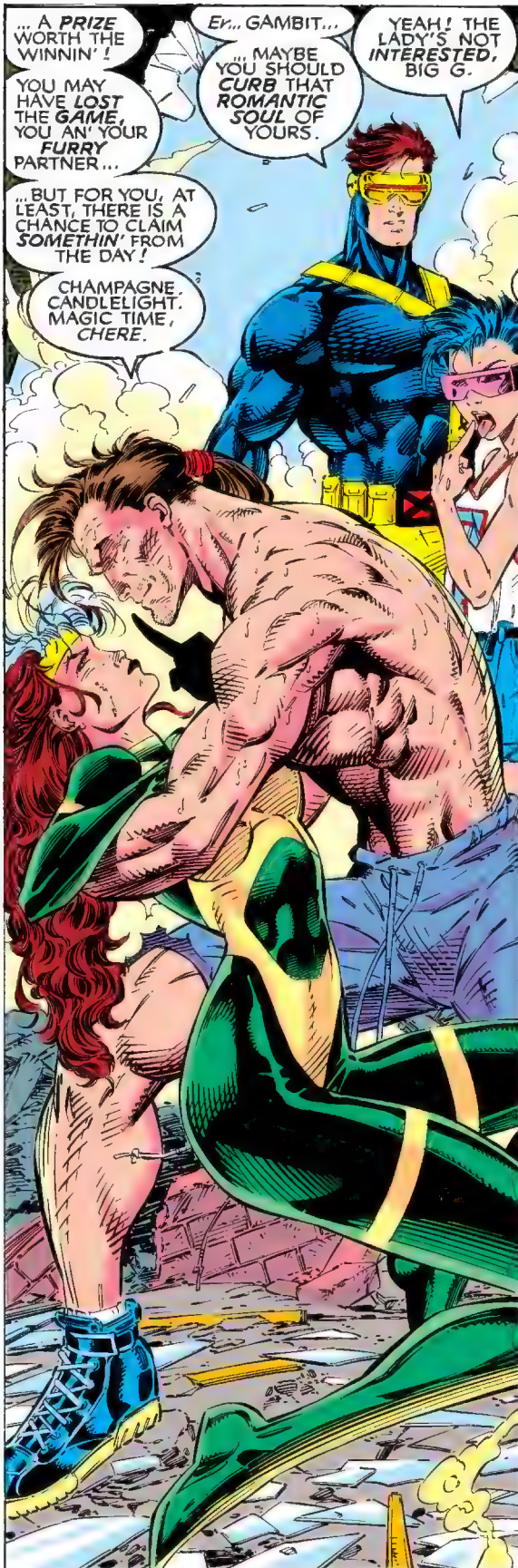
"...IF WE ARE TO BECOME THE UPSTART DOMINANT."

?  
AND THAT IS ABOUT ...?

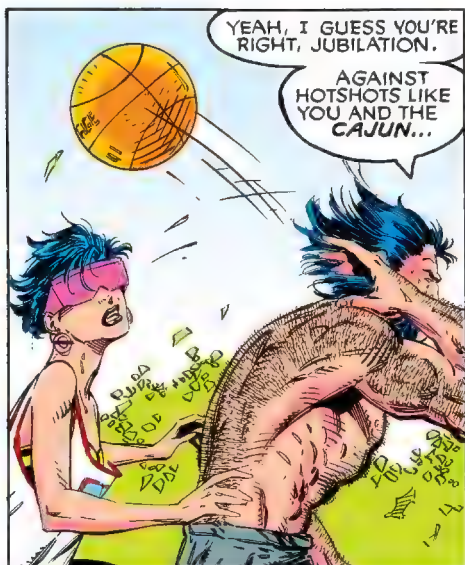
NOTHING LESS THAN IMMORTALITY.

TELL ME, HERR MATSUO, IS THAT NOT...



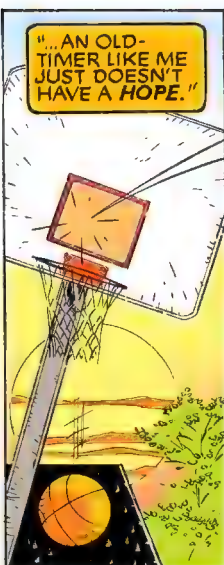






YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, JUBILATION.

AGAINST HOTSHOTS LIKE YOU AND THE CAJUN...



"...AN OLD-TIMER LIKE ME JUST DOESN'T HAVE A HOPE."



Er...

Ah...



'SIDES...

I NEED MORE MOTIVATION.



"LIKE MAYBE A CASE OF BREW AT STAKE."

MOIRA, DARLIN...

COME BACK T' THE LIBRARY CHARLES AND I...

NO, SEAN.

I CAN'T FACE HIM. I... IT'S CHARLES I FAILED MORE THAN ANYONE.

HIS DREAM.

YOU'LL NEVER BE HEARIN' HIM SAY THAT, MOIRA.

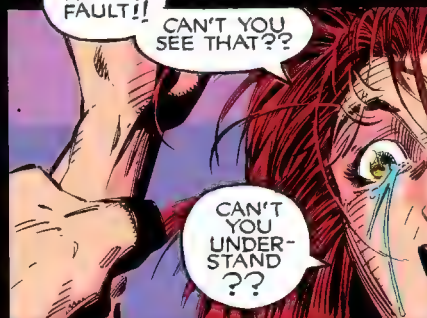
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. LEAVE IT BEHIND. THIS IS... MOIRA, ALL THIS IS JUST OVER-REACTING TO...

...OVERREACTING...?



IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT??



CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND??



OVER-REACTING?!?

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!?

HOW CAN YOU DARE STAND THERE AND SAY THAT TO ME?!?

TO ME?!?

HOW CAN I EVER LOOK AT MYSELF AGAIN?

OR LOOK AT YOU... ANY OF YOU...

...WITHOUT BEING REMINDED??



NO, MOIRA. I WON'T HEAR IT, DARLIN'!

PROFESSOR X SAYS YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE. WHAT HAPPENED WITH MAGNETO...

THE BEST LAID PLANS DON'T ALWAYS WORK OUT FOR THE BEST.

MOIRA... YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN.

...HUMAN...

**HUMAN!**

AND ISN'T THAT JUST THE PROBLEM?

NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!

DON'T...

Shhh, DARLIN'.

WE'RE ALL HERE FOR YOU.

THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.

I'M HERE FOR YOU.

I ALWAYS WILL BE.

NOW, PLEASE... LET'S HAVE NO MORE OF THIS TALK OF LEAVING.

ELSE-WHERE.

WHERE IS DAT GIRL?

LATER.

SHE'S GON' LEARN I DON'T WAIT TOO LONG FOR...

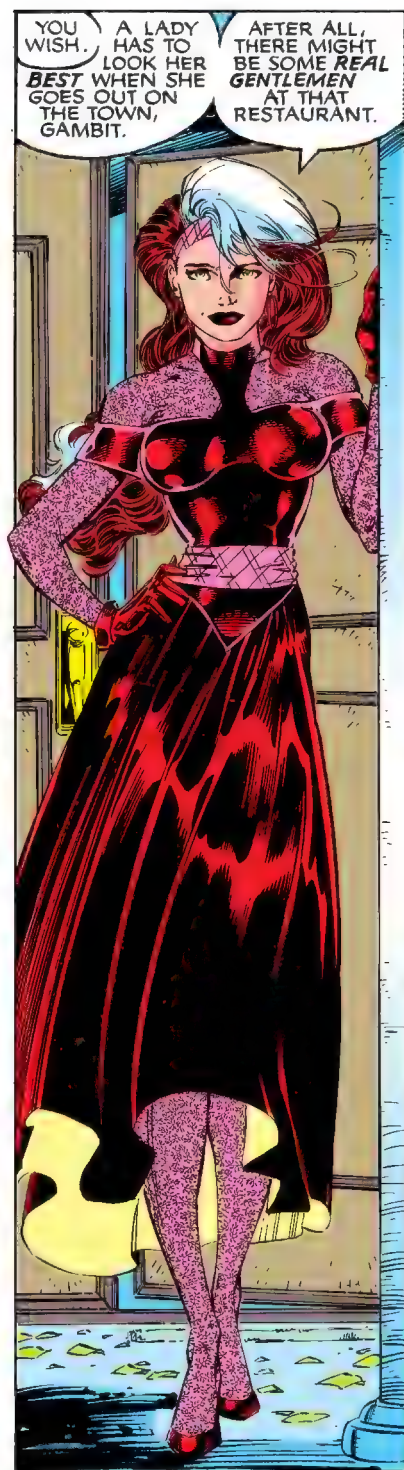
Hm?

HEL-LO.

NOW WHAT'S THIS?

CHERE... FOR ME?

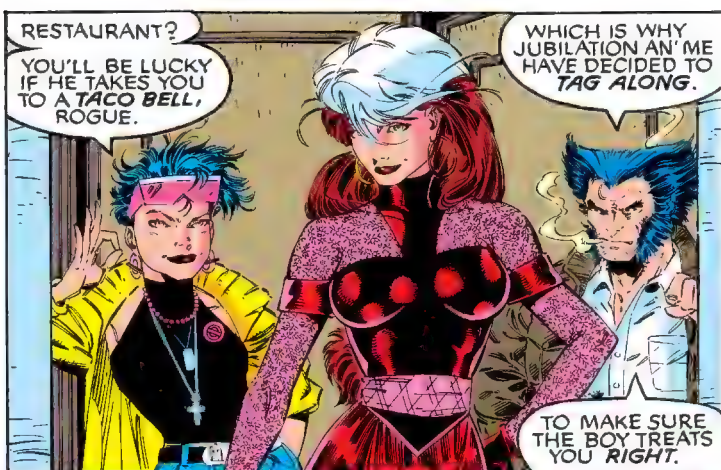




YOU WISH.

A LADY HAS TO LOOK HER **BEST** WHEN SHE GOES OUT ON THE TOWN, GAMBIT.

AFTER ALL, THERE MIGHT BE SOME **REAL GENTLEMEN** AT THAT RESTAURANT.



RESTAURANT?

YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF HE TAKES YOU TO A **TACO BELL**, ROGUE.

WHICH IS WHY JUBILATION AN' ME HAVE DECIDED TO **TAG ALONG**.

TO MAKE SURE THE BOY TREATS YOU **RIGHT**.



TAG...? Ah, YOUR SENTIMENTS ARE **TRES, TRES TOUCHIN'**, LOGAN...

...BUT THERE IS ROOM FOR ONLY TWO ON MY BIKE...

**honk honk**



THEN IT'S SERENDIPITOUS I HEARD ABOUT YOUR IMPENDING GASTRONOMIC VENTURES ...

... AND DECIDED TO AVAIL MYSELF NOT ONLY OF YOUR CHARMING COMPANY...

...BUT ALSO THIS MOST **CAPACIOUS JEEP**.



I THOUGHT I'D JOINED THE **X-MEN**...

...NOT THE **BRADY BUNCH**!

THERE ARE SOME THINGS I PREFER NOT TO DO IN A **GROUP**!



WHICH IS OUR **BEST** REASON FOR COMING!

BUT... **BEAST**, YOU CAN'T GO INTO TOWN LOOKING...

...LIKE A BIG BLUE FUZZBALL?

UNEQUIVOCALLY, BUT OUR RESIDENT MACHINESMITH, THE SLIGHTLY SAGACIOUS CLEVER FORGE...

...RECREATED ONE OF NIGHT-CRAWLER'S OLD IMAGE-INDUCERS FOR ME.

MM. ALMOST AN IMPROVEMENT.

BUT... HEY! I WANTED TO RIDE ON THE CHOPPER WITH...

NOT TONIGHT, THERE!

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, MON AMIS!

MOIRA... DON'T SAY ANYTHING MORE, SCOTT.

SEAN AND CHARLES HAVE DONE THEIR BEST TO CHANGE MY MIND.

TO NO AVAIL.

MOIRA, ONE LAST WORD...

AND I'D LIKE IT TO BE MINE, CHARLES.

NO.

MOIRA...

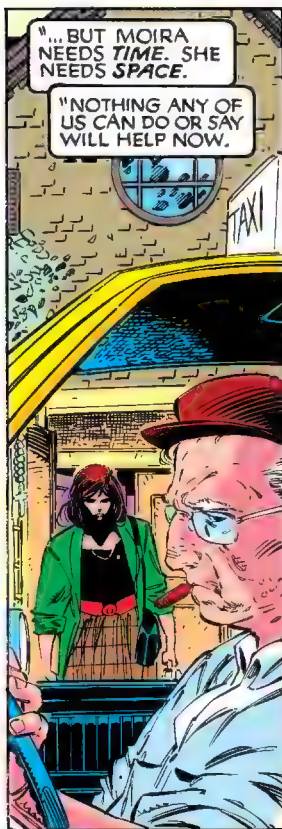
IT'S ALL SAID AND DONE, SEAN.

I CAN'T STAY. I JUST CAN'T.

LET HER GO, BANSHEE.

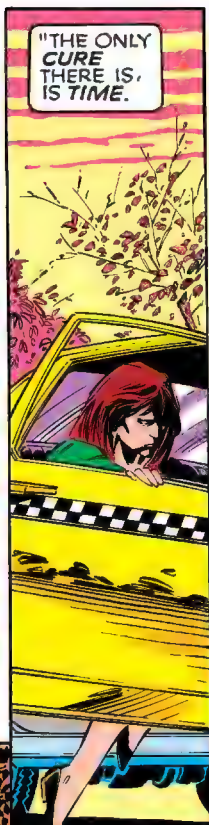
I KNOW HOW HARD THIS IS FOR YOU... FOR BOTH OF YOU...





"... BUT MOIRA  
NEEDS **TIME**. SHE  
NEEDS **SPACE**."

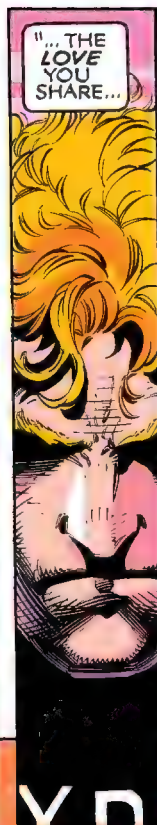
"NOTHING ANY OF  
US CAN DO OR SAY  
WILL HELP NOW."



"THE ONLY  
**CURE**  
THERE IS,  
IS **TIME**."



"AND WITH  
ENOUGH  
OF IT..."

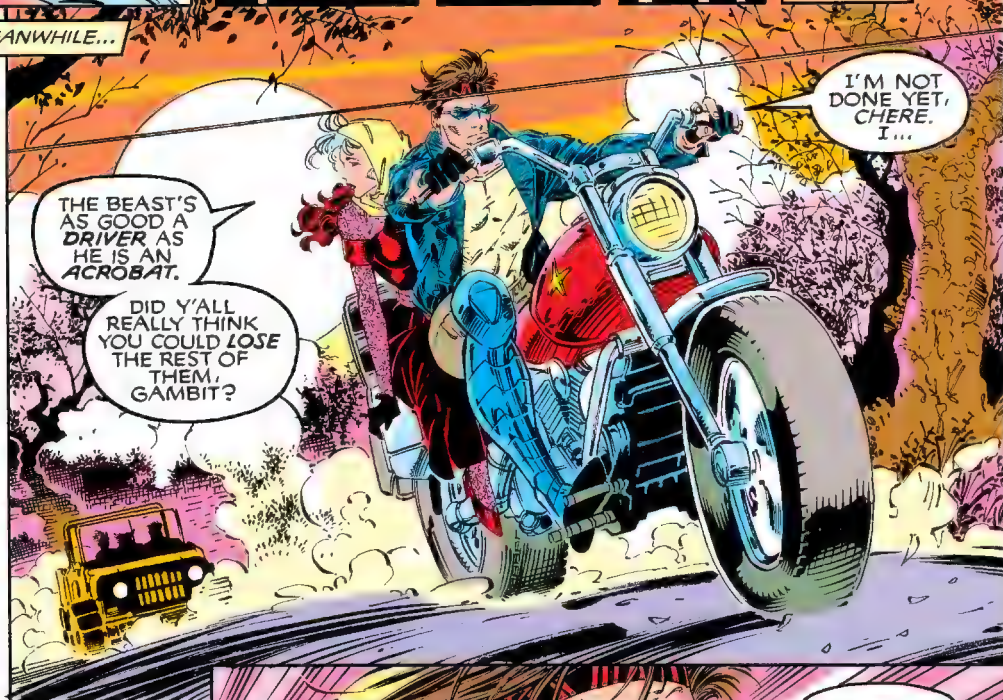


"... THE  
**LOVE**  
YOU  
SHARE..."



"... IS BOUND  
TO BRING  
YOU BACK  
TOGETHER."

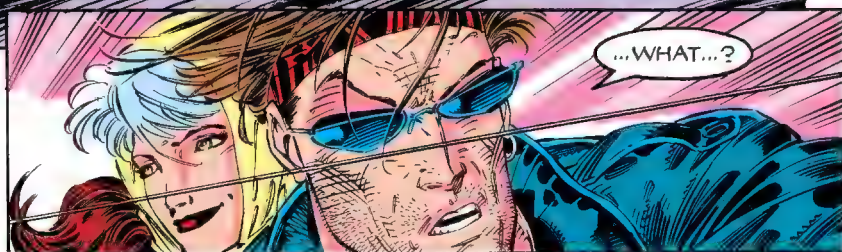
MEANWHILE...



THE BEAST'S  
AS GOOD A  
**DRIVER** AS  
HE IS AN  
**ACROBAT**."

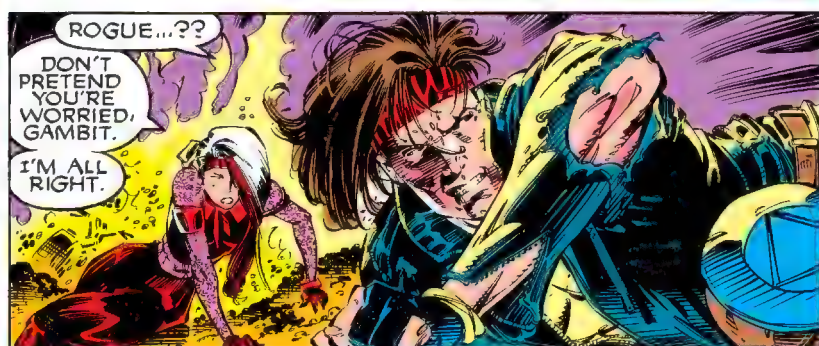
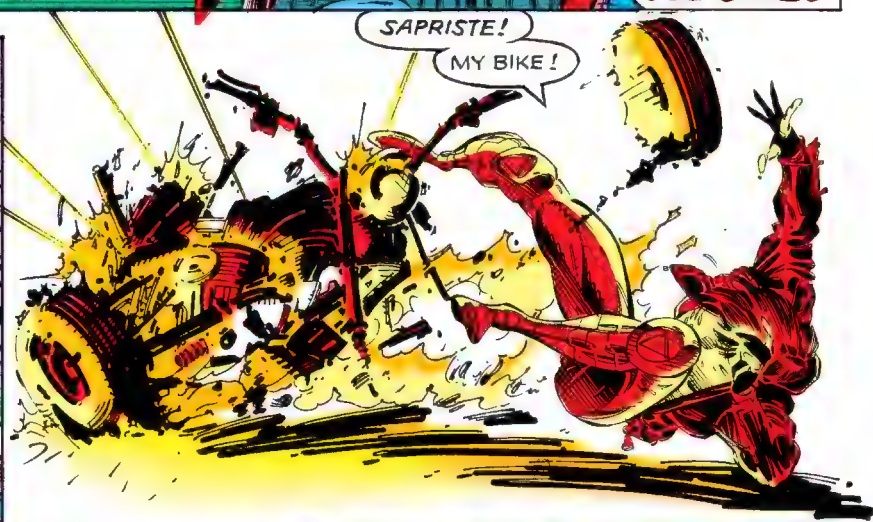
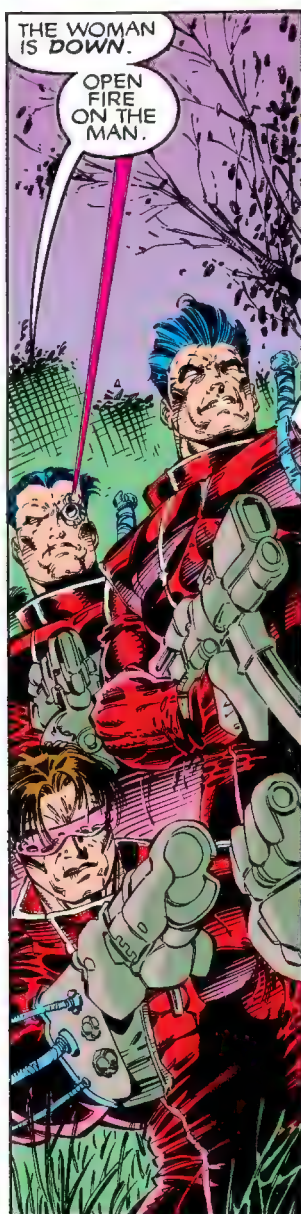
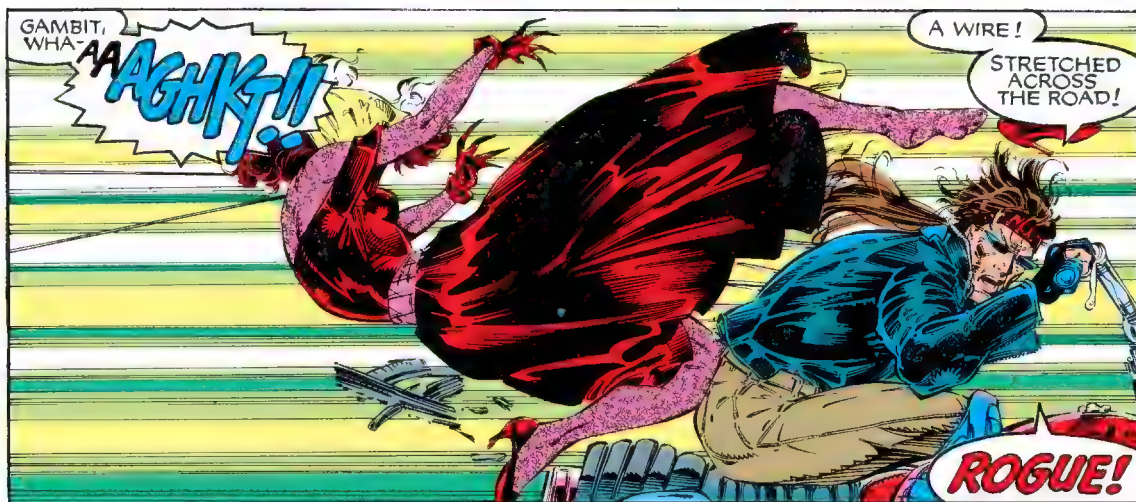
DID Y'ALL  
REALLY THINK  
YOU COULD **LOSE**  
THE REST OF  
THEM,  
GAMBIT?"

I'M NOT  
DONE YET,  
CHERE.  
I..."

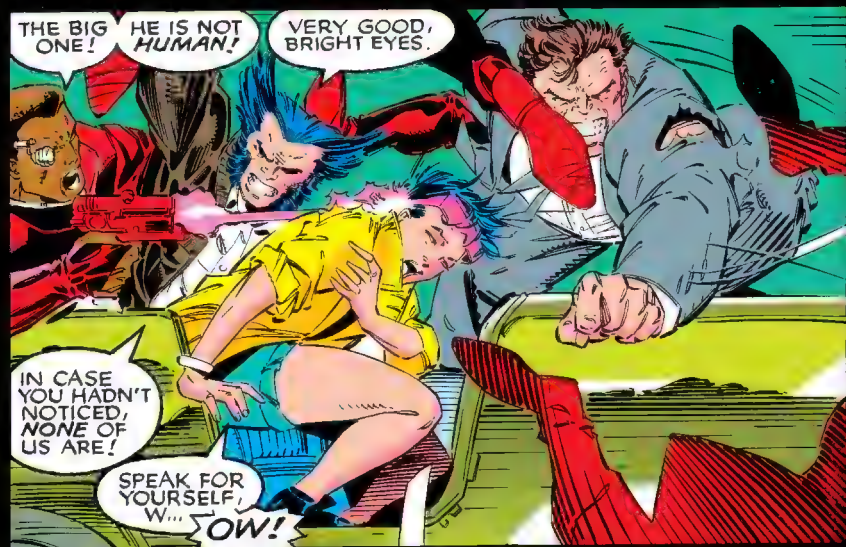


...WHAT...?

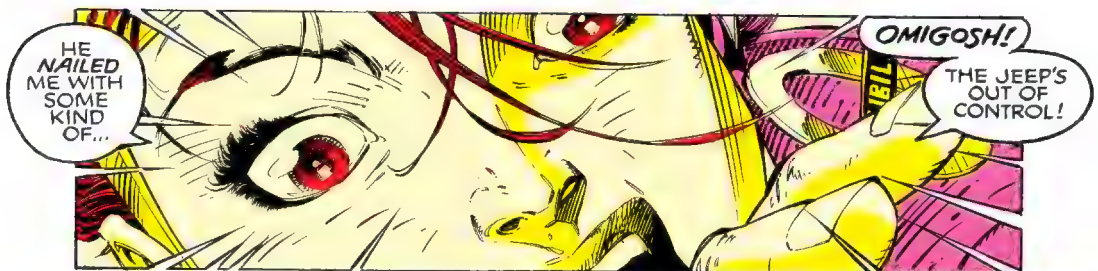








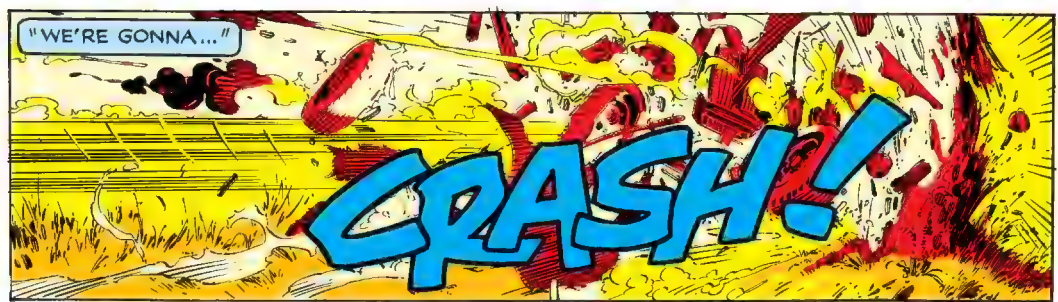




HE  
NAILED  
ME WITH  
SOME  
KIND  
OF...

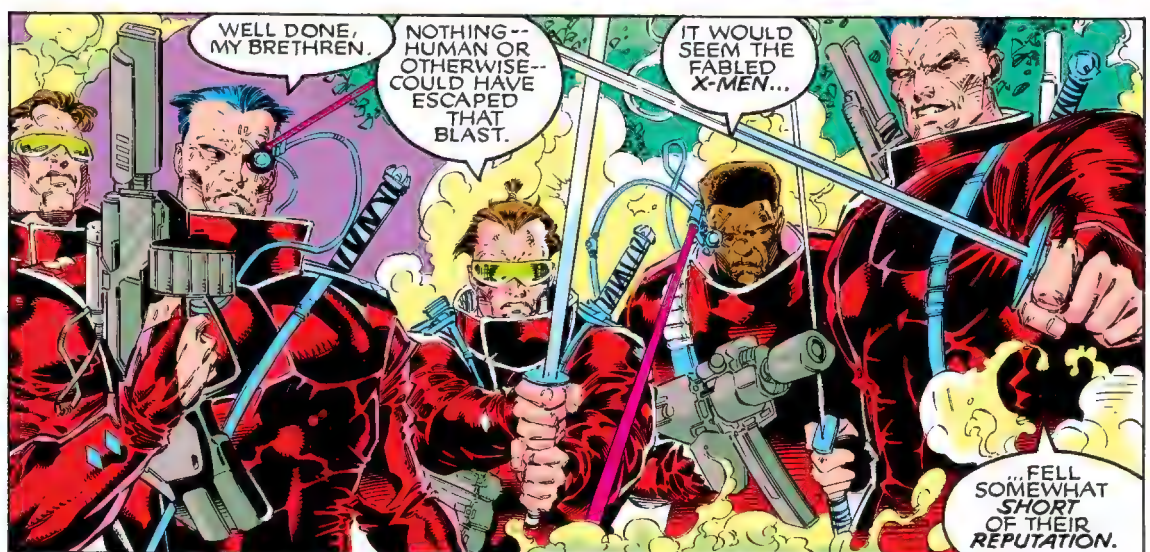
OMIGOSH!

THE JEEP'S  
OUT OF  
CONTROL!



"WE'RE GONNA..."

**CRASH!**



WELL DONE,  
MY BRETHREN.

NOTHING--  
HUMAN OR  
OTHERWISE--  
COULD HAVE  
ESCAPED  
THAT  
BLAST.

IT WOULD  
SEEM THE  
FABLED  
X-MEN...

FELL  
SOMEWHAT  
SHORT  
OF THEIR  
REPUTATION.



THEN IT MUST BE  
A REPUTATION  
OF EXTRA-  
ORDINARY  
MAGNITUDE,  
MY FRIEND.

INASMUCH  
AS WE ARE  
ALSO SHORT  
OF BEATEN.

STOW IT,  
BEAST.

TAKE 'EM  
DOWN.  
NOW!

YEAH! THEY  
OWE US!

IF NOTHING  
ELSE, THEY  
RUINED MY  
GOOD CLOTHES!





LIGHTS, JUBILATION!

BLIND 'EM!

YOU GOT IT, WOLVIE!



HEY! THEY'RE RETREATING! WHAT ... ?

JUBILEE!

CAN'T STAND...  
FEEL...

...SICK...



JUBILEE!

SHE'S DOWN.

BUT... SUDDENLY...

...DON'T FEEL...

...SO GOOD...

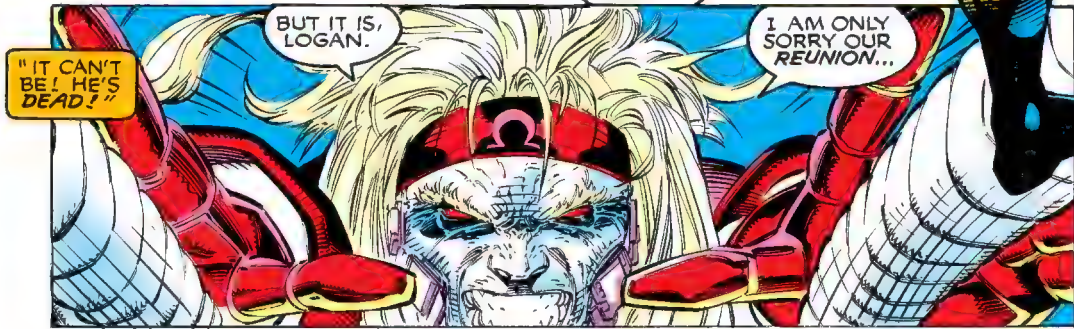
...MYSELF...



JUBILATION!  
HANK!

BOTH OUT. AND...

NO! THAT SCENT!  
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...

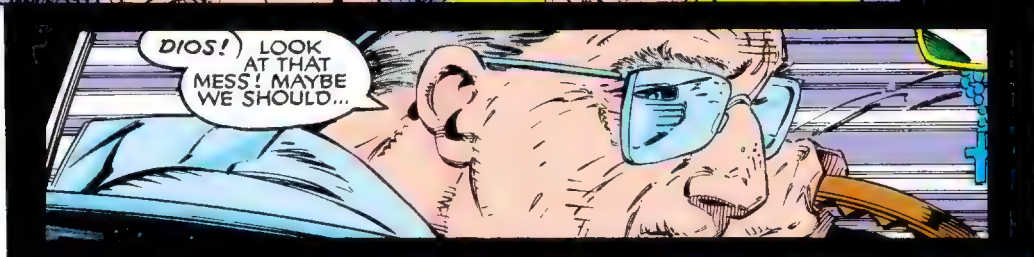
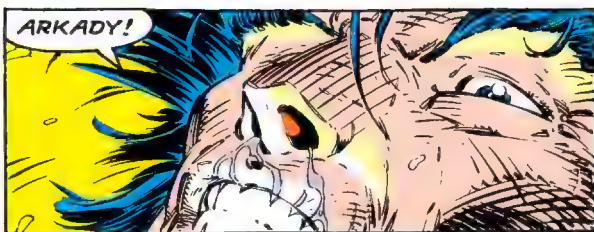


"IT CAN'T BE! HE'S DEAD!"

BUT IT IS, LOGAN.

I AM ONLY SORRY OUR REUNION...

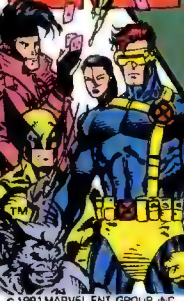








**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**



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AUTHORITY



AT THE HANDS OF  
**OMEGA RED**



Cyclops. Wolverine. Psylocke. Rogue. Beast. Gambit. Mutants all, children of the atom who have banded together to defend their kind from prejudice and persecution. United, they form one half of a team dedicated to bringing all humanity together in peace. Stan Lee presents. . .The X-MEN.

JIM LEE  
PLOT & PENCILS  
JOHN BYRNE  
SCRIPT  
SCOTT WILLIAMS  
ART THIBERT  
BOB WIACEK  
JOE RUBINSTEIN  
INKS  
TOM & LOIS  
LETTERING  
JOE ROSAS  
COLORING  
BOB HARRAS  
EDITING  
TOM DeFALCO  
CHIEFING

BENEATH THE STAID  
FACADE OF A  
MANSION IN UPTOWN  
NEW YORK...

...LIES A MASS OF  
STATE-OF-THE-ART  
TECHNOLOGY  
KNOWN AS THE  
WAR ROOM.

IT IS SILENT  
NOW.  
PEACEFUL.

PERIMETER ALERT  
CEREBRO SCAN

UNIDENTIFIED MUTANT  
SIGNATURE DETECTED

QUADRANT K724

BUT  
NOT  
FOR  
LONG.

THE ALARM SPLITS  
THE DARK SILENCE...

...A BANSHEE WAIL  
THAT ECHOES IN THE  
EMPTY CHAMBER.

QUADRANT  
K-724

THE MUTANT-  
SENSING COMPUTER  
CALLED CEREBRO  
HAS PERFORMED  
THE FUNCTION  
FOR WHICH IT  
WAS DESIGNED.

A MANIFESTATION  
OF MUTANT  
POWER HAS BEEN  
DETECTED AND  
TRIANGULATED.

2.5 x ZOOM

ITS MECHANICAL  
PATIENCE BEING  
BOTH INFINITE AND  
INEXHAUSTIBLE...

UNIDENTIFIED  
MUTANT

... CEREBRO  
CONTINUES TO  
MONITOR THE  
NEW MUTANT...

... TO TRACK  
ITS POWER  
CURVE...

... FURTHER  
PINPOINT ITS  
LOCATION...

... AND FLASH  
THE ALERT...

SIGNATURE IDENTIFIED  
WOLVERINE  
BEAST  
JUBILEE

ROGUE  
GAMBIT

# BLOWBACK



...UNTIL, AT LAST, THERE IS SOMEONE TO ACKNOWLEDGE IT.

THE MUTANT KNOWN AS FORGE.

CEREBRO!

GO TO VOICE ACTIVATION.

REPORT STATUS.

MUTANT LOCATED VECTOR NINE NINE SEVEN, BEARING SIX TWO ONE.

SPECIFICATIONS ON SCREEN.

Hmm... I'M STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS BABY'S INTER-ACTIVE VOICE SIMULATOR. TOO COLD, TOO EMOTIONLESS.

A NEW MEGABYTE HERE, A CHIP THERE... OUGHT TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN TONAL QUALITY OF THE VOICE.

GOTTA GET TO IT... WHEN I FIND THE TIME.

FORGE!

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'VE WE GOT?

SOMETHING VERY BIG, AND VERY CLOSE, CYCLOPS.

LOOKS LIKE AN UNIDENTIFIED MUTANT-- AND LESS THAN FIVE MILES FROM THE MANSION.

WHAT?

HOW COULD IT HAVE GOTTEN SO CLOSE WITHOUT CEREBRO DETECTING IT?

UNLESS...

SCOTT!! WHAT IS HAPPENING? THE ALARMS...!

YES! I WAS DOING LAPS IN THE POOL...

...AND THAT BLOODY KLAXON ALMOST SHOT ME RIGHT OUT OF THE WATER!

CLOAKED? YOU SUSPECT AN ATTACK?  
IT'S BETTER THAN A SUSPICION!

CYCLOPS... I'M PICKING UP A PSYCHIC DISTRESS SIGNAL.

IT'S GOT TO BE HANK, ROGUE, GAMBIT AND THE OTHERS.

ACCORDING TO THE READOUT ON CEREBRO'S MAIN SCREEN...

...THIS MANIFESTATION IS RIGHT ON THE ROAD THEY TOOK TO GET TO TOWN! \*

C'MON, X-MEN...

"...TO THE BLACKBIRD! DOUBLE TIME!"

SONIC DAMPERS MUTE THE THUNDER OF JET ENGINES...

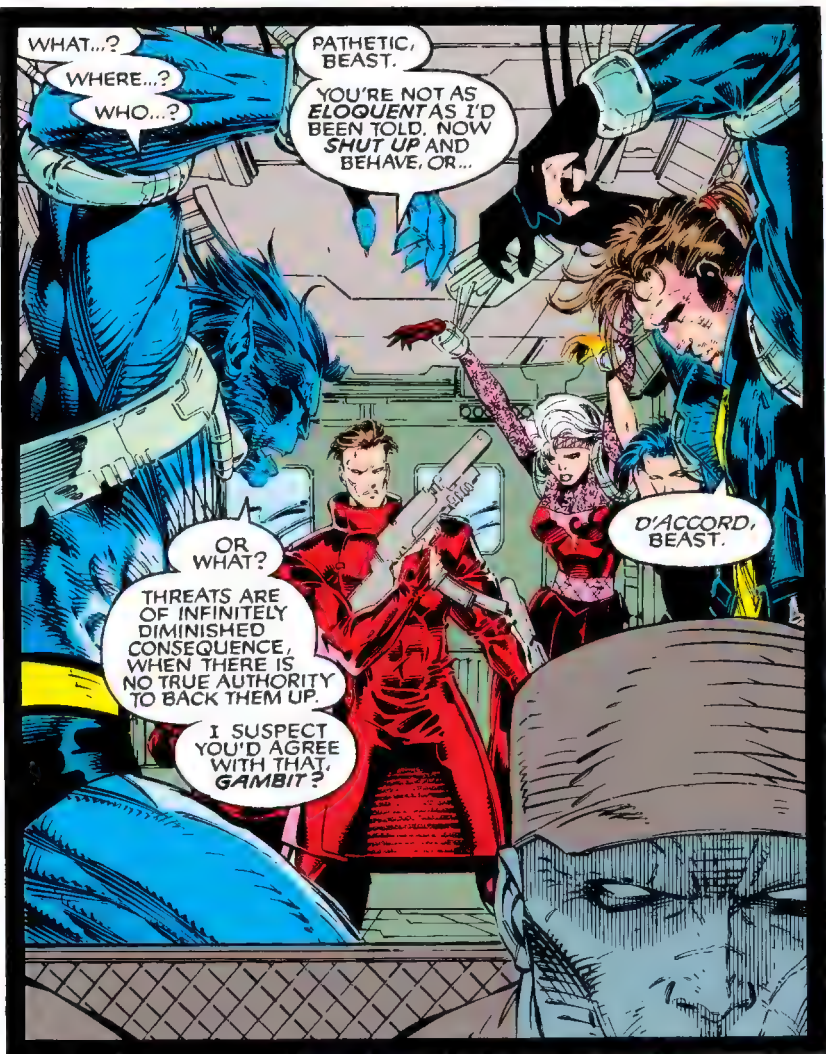
...AS THE UNIQUE CRAFT HURLS ITSELF INTO THE NIGHT SKY OVER WESTCHESTER COUNTY...





...WHILE, NOT TOO FAR AWAY...

...ON ONE OF THE MANY COUNTRY LANES THAT WIND THEIR WAY INTO SALEM CENTER...



WHAT...?  
WHERE...?  
WHO...?

PATHETIC, BEAST.  
YOU'RE NOT AS ELOQUENT AS I'D BEEN TOLD. NOW SHUT UP AND BEHAVE, OR...

OR WHAT?  
THREATS ARE OF INFINITELY DIMINISHED CONSEQUENCE, WHEN THERE IS NO TRUE AUTHORITY TO BACK THEM UP.

I SUSPECT YOU'D AGREE WITH THAT, GAMBIT?

D'ACCORD, BEAST.

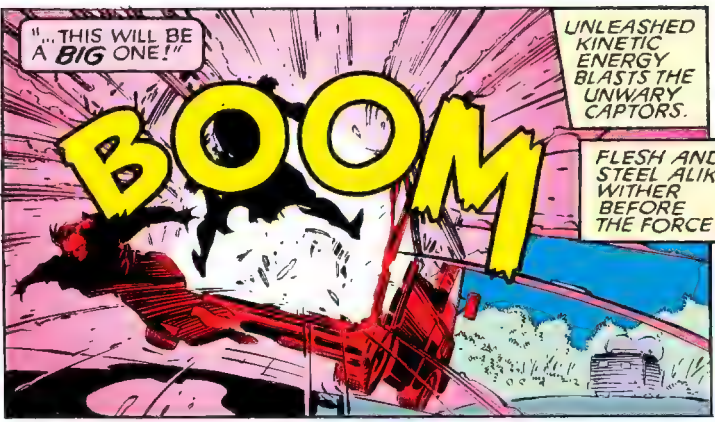


THE GENTLEMAN ASSUMES THE POT IS HIS TO WIN...

...BUT I HAVE A LITERAL ACE UP MY SLEEVE.



CLOSE YOUR EYES, MON AMI...

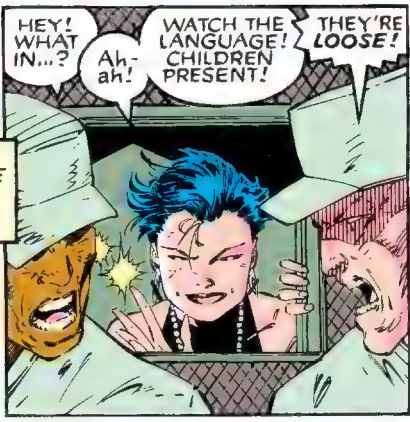


"...THIS WILL BE A BIG ONE!"

**BOOM**

UNLEASHED KINETIC ENERGY BLASTS THE UNWARY CAPTORS.

FLESH AND STEEL ALIKE WITHER BEFORE THE FORCE.



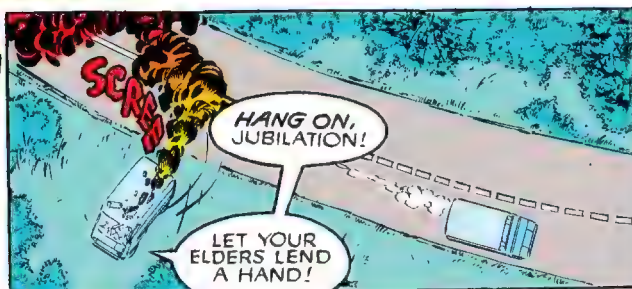
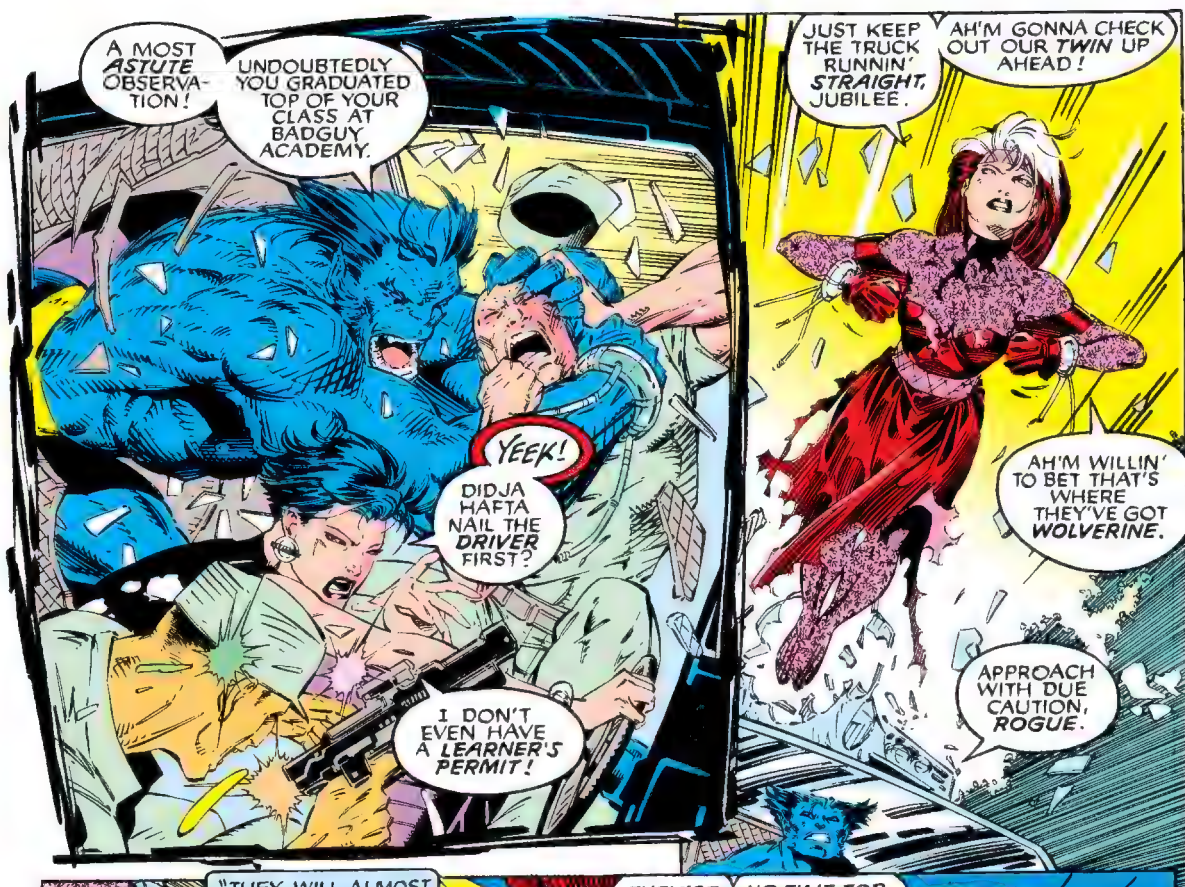
HEY! WHAT IN...?

Ah-ah!

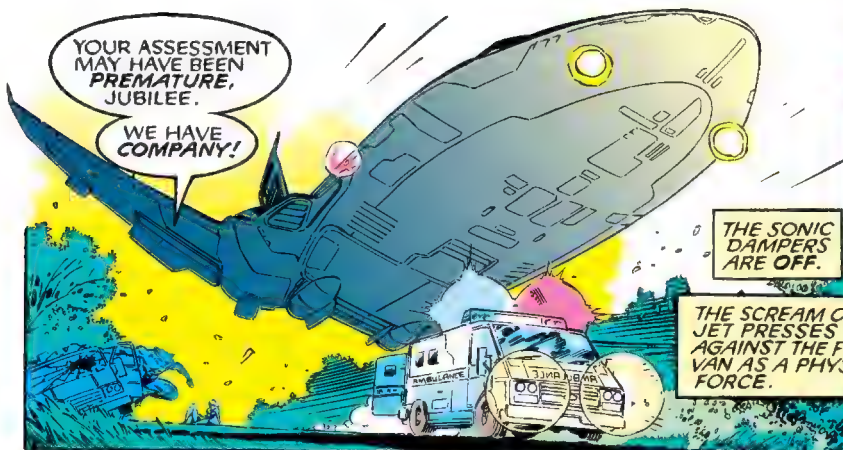
WATCH THE LANGUAGE! CHILDREN PRESENT!

THEY'RE LOOSE!







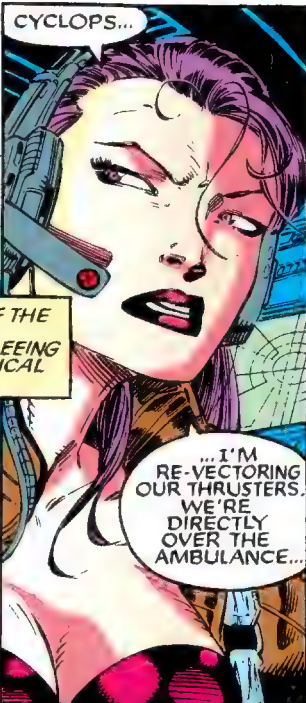


YOUR ASSESSMENT  
MAY HAVE BEEN  
**PREMATURE,**  
JUBILEE.

WE HAVE  
COMPANY!

THE SONIC  
DAMPERS  
ARE OFF.

THE SCREAM OF THE  
JET PRESSES  
AGAINST THE FLEEING  
VAN AS A PHYSICAL  
FORCE.



CYCLOPS...

...I'M  
RE-VECTORIZING  
OUR THRUSTERS.  
WE'RE  
DIRECTLY  
OVER THE  
AMBULANCE...

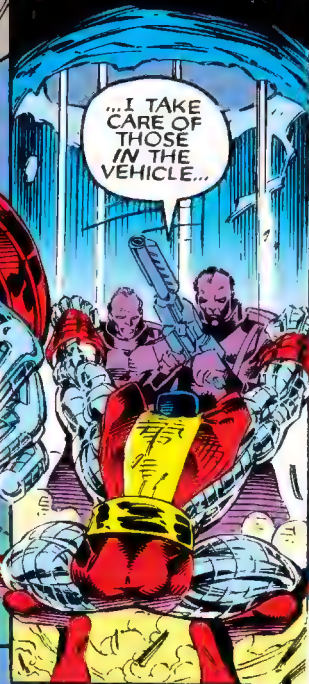


"...TIME TO DROP IN ON  
OUR LITTLE FRIENDS."

MOONLIGHT  
GLINTS, SILVER  
BRIGHT ON  
A HURLING  
FIGURE.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT TO DO,  
COLOSSUS?

OF  
COURSE,  
SCOTT...



...I TAKE  
CARE OF  
THOSE  
IN THE  
VEHICLE...

"...WHILE YOU DEAL  
WITH THE DRIVER,  
IN YOUR OWN  
DISTINCTIVE STYLE!"

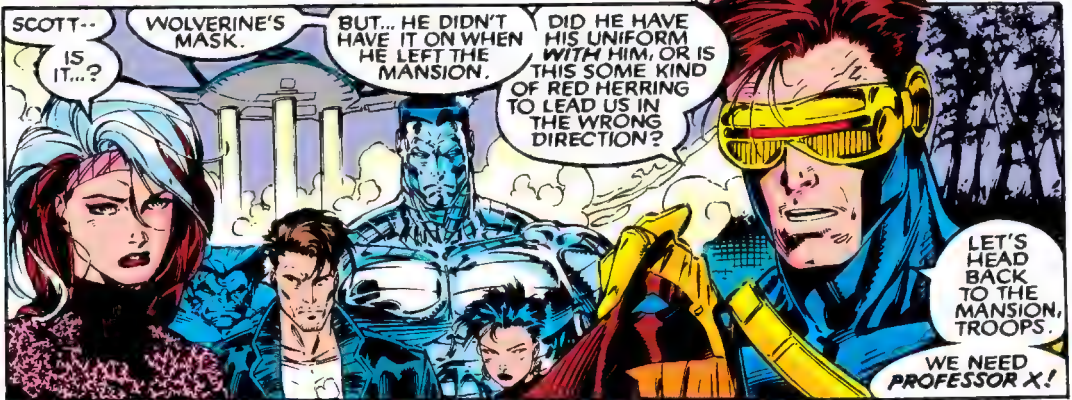
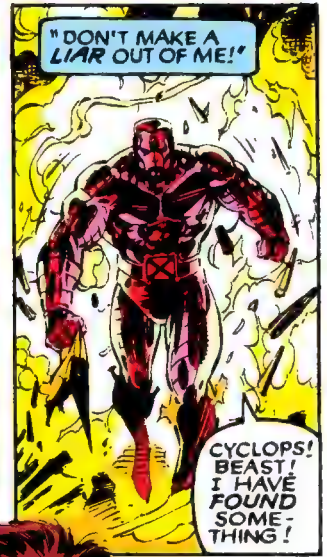
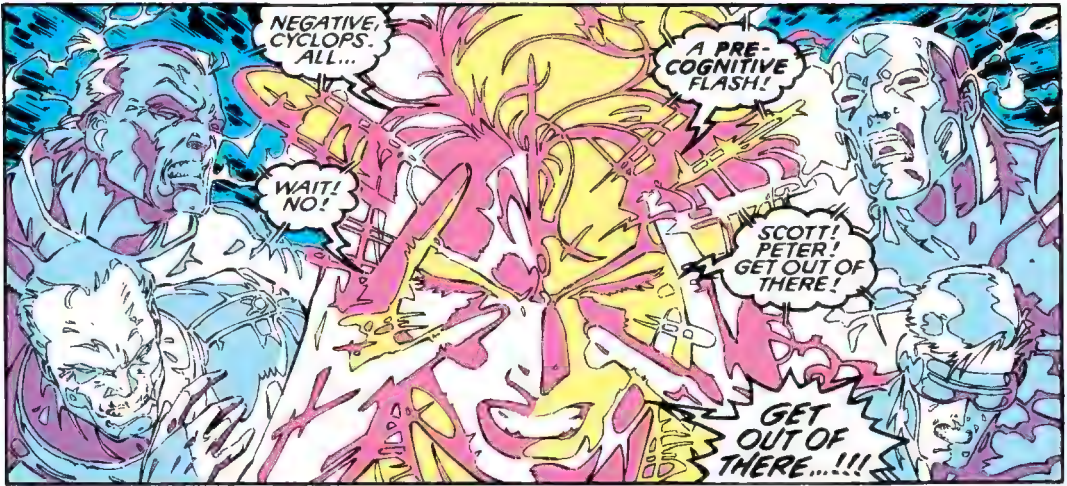


**ZWAK**

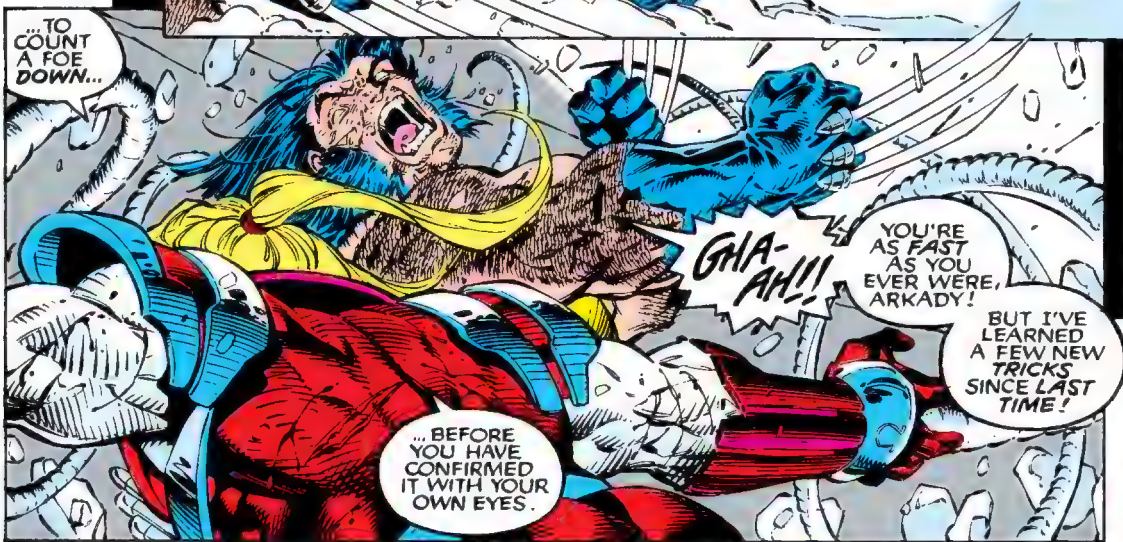
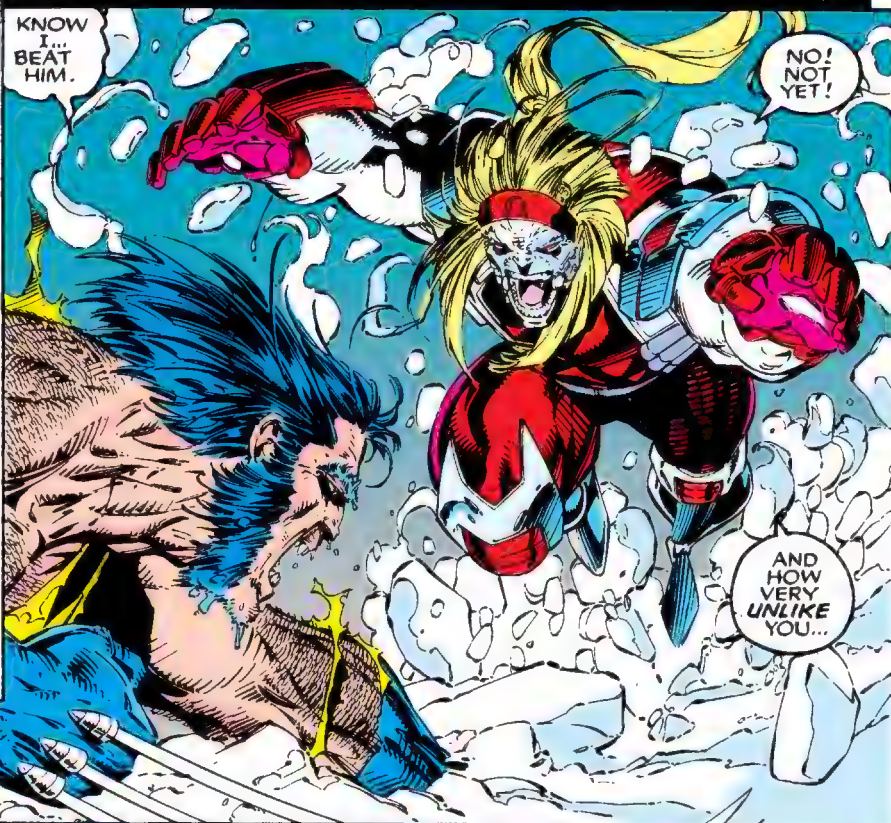
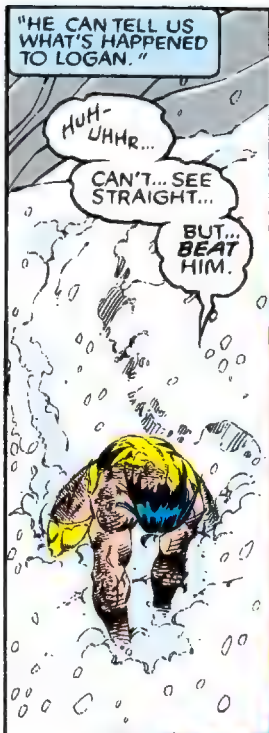
PSYLOCKE!  
I COUNT  
THREE IN  
THE TRUCK.

DO YOU  
SCAN  
ANY  
MORE?













HM! SEVENTEEN HOURS, FIFTY THREE MINUTES AND...

... AN ODD NUMBER OF SECONDS. I SUPPOSE YOU'RE NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN THE PRECISE READOUT?

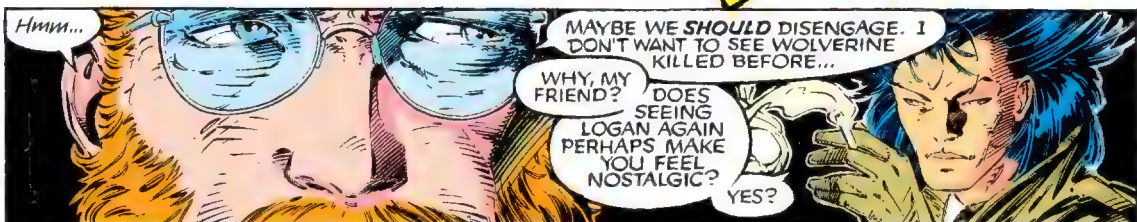
NO. IT IS ENOUGH TO KNOW OMEGA RED'S FABLED STAMINA IS UNDIMINISHED.

SHOULD WE... SEPARATE THEM, NOW?

WHY?

"I WOULD SAY HERR OMEGA HAS EARNED A LITTLE... FUN.

"LET HIM FINISH THE EXERCISE IN HIS OWN FASHION."



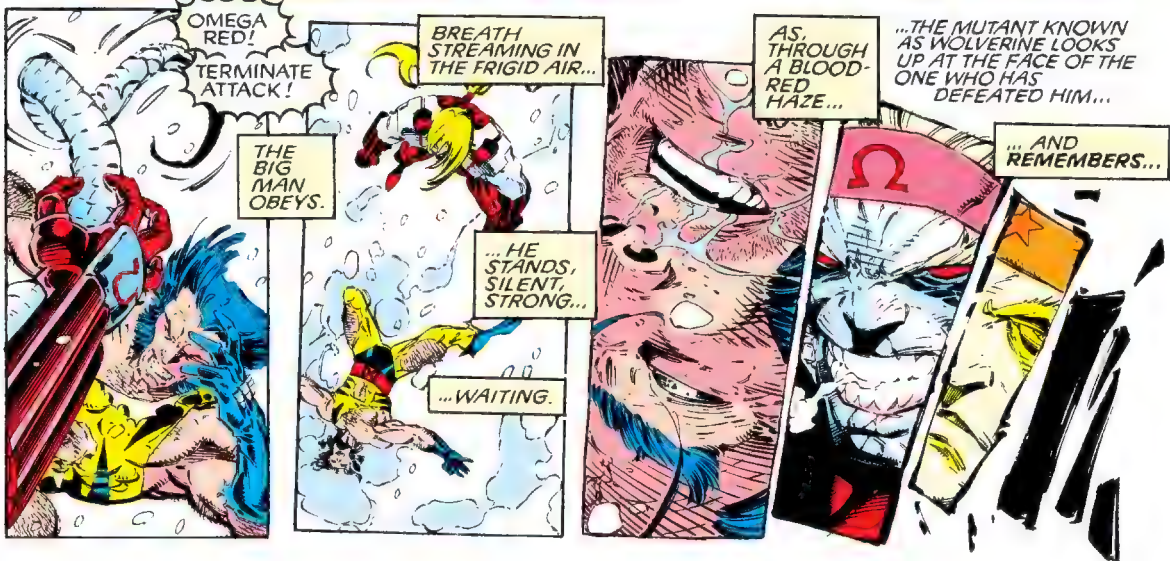
Hmm...

MAYBE WE *SHOULD* DISENGAGE. I DON'T WANT TO SEE WOLVERINE KILLED BEFORE...

WHY, MY FRIEND?

DOES SEEING LOGAN AGAIN PERHAPS MAKE YOU FEEL NOSTALGIC?

YES?



OMEGA RED! TERMINATE ATTACK!

BREATH STREAMING IN THE FRIGID AIR...

THE BIG MAN OBEYS.

... HE STANDS, SILENT, STRONG...

... WAITING.

AS, THROUGH A BLOOD-RED HAZE...

... THE MUTANT KNOWN AS WOLVERINE LOOKS UP AT THE FACE OF THE ONE WHO HAS DEFEATED HIM...

... AND REMEMBERS...





A PATCHWORK  
PAST.  
PIECES.  
UNCONNECTED.

HEY!  
YOU  
STILL  
WITH US,  
SHORTY?



YEAH.  
DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
ME.

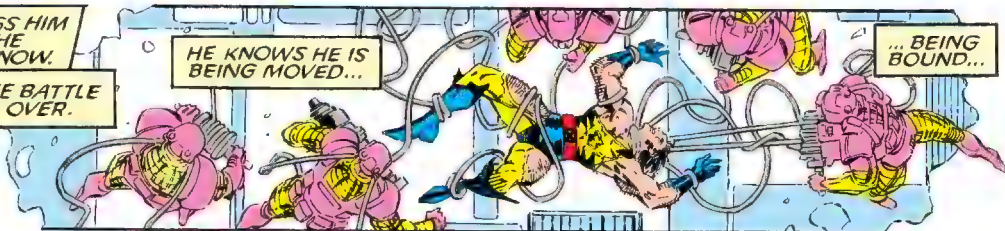
EASY FOR YOU  
TO SAY.  
WE DON'T  
WANT YOU  
ZONING OUT  
ON US AT A  
CRITICAL  
MOMENT.

LET'S  
MOVE  
IT.  
I  
WON'T.



BERLIN.  
AND WAS IT...  
...THIRTY  
YEARS  
AGO?

PAIN BRINGS HIM  
BACK TO THE  
HERE AND NOW.  
THE BATTLE  
IS OVER.



HE KNOWS HE IS  
BEING MOVED...

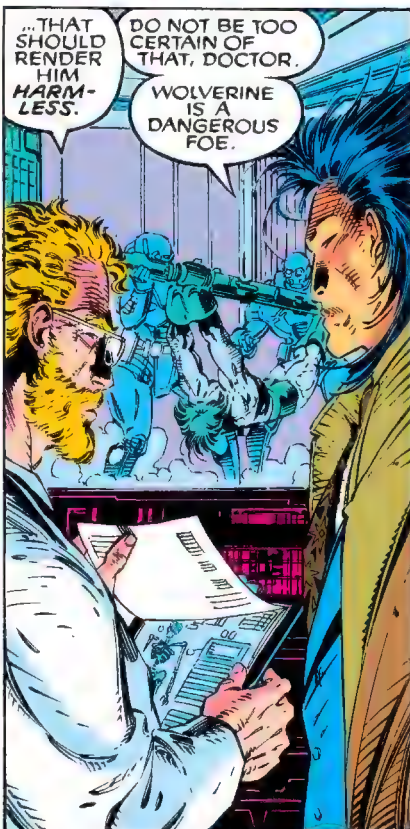
... BEING  
BOUND...



... AND HE KNOWS,  
EVEN IN HIS WAN-  
DERING DELIRIUM...

... THAT HE HAS  
BEEN HERE  
BEFORE ...

THERE...



... THAT  
SHOULD  
RENDER  
HIM  
HARM-  
LESS.

DO NOT BE TOO  
CERTAIN OF  
THAT, DOCTOR.

WOLVERINE  
IS A  
DANGEROUS  
FOE.



WE WILL SEE OUR-  
SELVES UNDONE,  
IF WE UNDER-  
ESTIMATE HIM.

CONFIRM  
TARGET.  
THEY HAVE  
LOGAN,  
MAJOR.

OBS-LINK  
ONE TO  
CENTRAL.

NO  
SIGN OF  
CREED.

STAY  
WITH  
THEM.

UPDATE  
ME AGAIN  
IN SIXTY  
MINUTES.



"CENTRAL  
OUT."

DO WE  
REALLY  
HAVE TIME  
FOR THESE  
GAMES?

URGENCY  
IS THE  
BYWORD  
OF THE DAY,  
DOCTOR.

AS YOU SAY,  
FRAULEIN  
STRUCKER.

BUT AS  
MATSUO-SAN  
HAS POINTED  
OUT...

...WE CANNOT  
AFFORD TO  
UNDERESTIMATE  
OUR OPPONENT,  
AND WITHOUT A  
FULL SPECTRUM  
OF TESTS...

...HOW  
CAN WE  
HELP  
BUT DO  
EXACTLY  
THAT?

BESIDES, THE  
CARBONADIUM  
SYNTHESIZER--  
THE PRIZE YOU  
SEEK WITH SUCH  
URGENCY--

-- IS NOT  
SOMETHING  
WHICH WILL  
REVEAL ITSELF  
WITHOUT A  
CONSIDERABLE  
DEGREE OF  
COAXING.

A PATCHWORK  
PRESENT.

PIECES OF  
SOUND,  
SIGHT.

NOTHING  
THAT WILL  
FIT INTO A  
COMPRE-  
HENSIBLE  
WHOLE.

NOTHING  
BUT THE NEED  
TO ESCAPE.

WE SEEK  
A PRIZE  
GREATER THAN  
YOU COULD  
GUESS, HERR  
DOCTOR.

IMMORTALITY--  
FOR OURSELVES,  
AND A NEW  
REICH!

DON'T  
LECTURE US  
ON MATTERS  
ABOUT WHICH  
WE ARE AL-  
READY FULLY  
INFORMED,  
CORNELIUS.

THE CARBON-  
ADIUM  
SYNTHESIZER  
HAS BEEN  
LOST FOR  
NEARLY THREE  
DECADES.

IS THERE  
ANY WONDER  
WE FEEL  
PRESSED  
FOR TIME?

SO YOU  
SEE,  
DOCTOR...

"...IF WE ARE TO  
WIN OUT AMONG  
THE UPSTARTS."

YES... WELL,  
THE  
SUBJECT  
SHOULD BE  
READY...

"...FOR ANOTHER  
INDUCED  
MEMORY  
INVERSION..."

...IN ROUGHLY  
TWO HUNDRED  
AND THIRTY  
MINUTES.

"PRESUMABLY  
YOU CAN ALL  
WAIT THAT LONG,  
AT LEAST?"

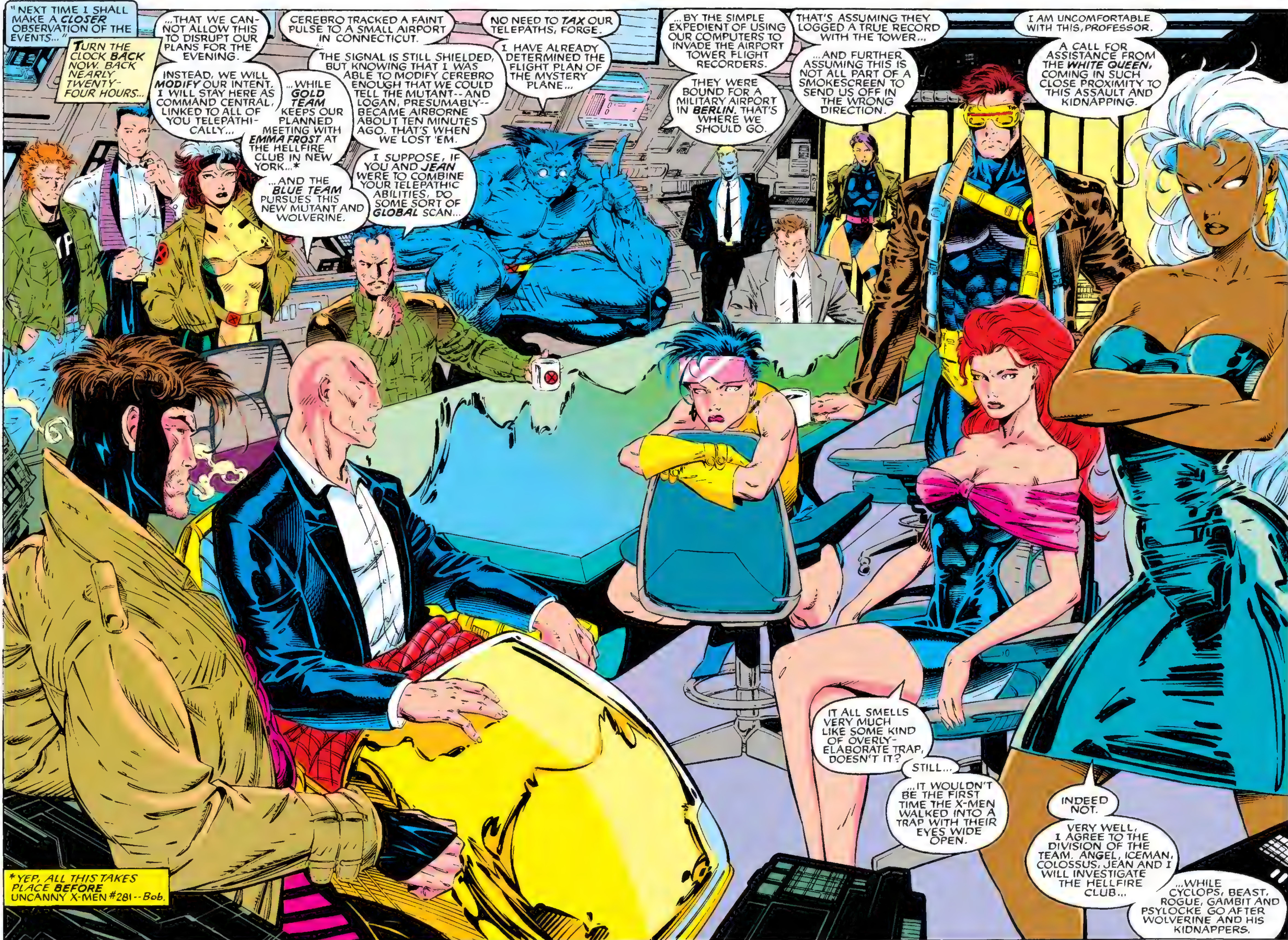
IF WE  
MUST,  
DOCTOR.

BUT NEXT  
TIME, THE  
GAUNTLET  
WILL BE...

... DIFFERENT.

...WE NEED THE  
INFORMATION  
THIS MAN HAS  
IN HIS HEAD...





"NEXT TIME I SHALL MAKE A CLOSER OBSERVATION OF THE EVENTS..."

TURN THE CLOCK BACK NOW. BACK NEARLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS...

...THAT WE CAN NOT ALLOW THIS TO DISRUPT OUR PLANS FOR THE EVENING.

INSTEAD, WE WILL MODIFY OUR INTENT. I WILL STAY HERE AS COMMAND CENTRAL, LINKED TO ALL OF YOU TELEPATHICALLY...

...WHILE GOLD TEAM KEEPS OUR PLANNED MEETING WITH EMMA FROST AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB IN NEW YORK...\*

...AND THE BLUE TEAM PURSUES THIS NEW MUTANT AND WOLVERINE.

CEREBRO TRACKED A FAINT PULSE TO A SMALL AIRPORT IN CONNECTICUT.

THE SIGNAL IS STILL SHIELDED, BUT KNOWING THAT I WAS ABLE TO MODIFY CEREBRO ENOUGH THAT WE COULD TELL THE MUTANT--AND LOGAN, PRESUMABLY--BECAME AIRBORNE ABOUT TEN MINUTES AGO. THAT'S WHEN WE LOST 'EM.

I SUPPOSE, IF YOU AND JEAN WERE TO COMBINE YOUR TELEPATHIC ABILITIES, DO SOME SORT OF GLOBAL SCAN...

NO NEED TO TAX OUR TELEPATHS, FORGE.

I HAVE ALREADY DETERMINED THE FLIGHT PLAN OF THE MYSTERY PLANE...

...BY THE SIMPLE EXPEDIENT OF USING OUR COMPUTERS TO INVADE THE AIRPORT TOWER FLIGHT RECORDERS.

THEY WERE BOUND FOR A MILITARY AIRPORT IN BERLIN. THAT'S WHERE WE SHOULD GO.

THAT'S ASSUMING THEY LOGGED A TRUE RECORD WITH THE TOWER...

...AND FURTHER ASSUMING THIS IS NOT ALL PART OF A SMOKESCREEN TO SEND US OFF IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

I AM UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS, PROFESSOR.

A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE WHITE QUEEN, COMING IN SUCH CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THIS ASSAULT AND KIDNAPPING.

IT ALL SMELLS VERY MUCH LIKE SOME KIND OF OVERLY-ELABORATE TRAP, DOESN'T IT?

STILL...

...IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME THE X-MEN WALKED INTO A TRAP WITH THEIR EYES WIDE OPEN.

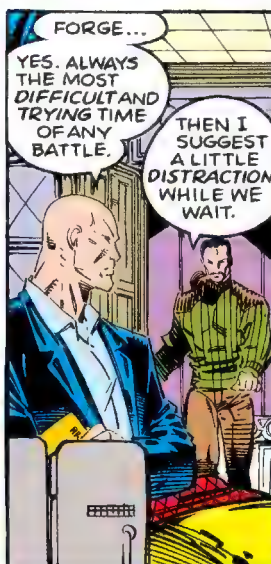
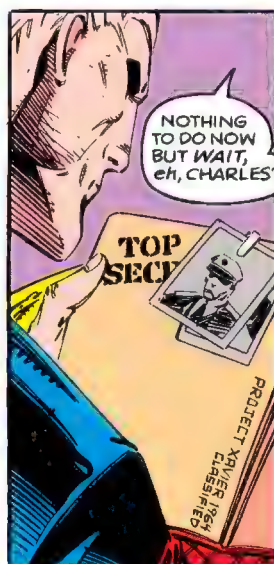
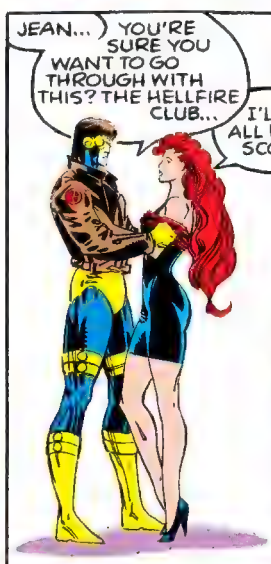
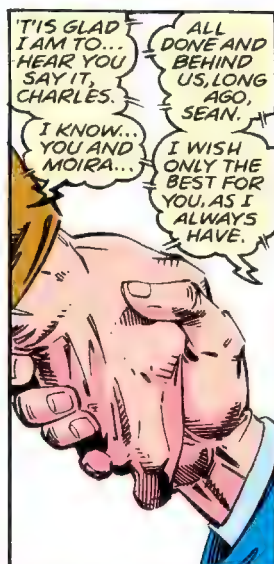
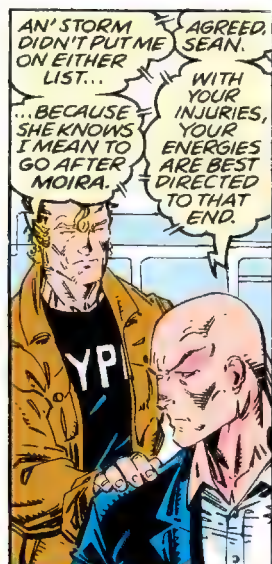
INDEED NOT.

VERY WELL, I AGREE TO THE DIVISION OF THE TEAM. ANGEL, ICEMAN, COLOSSUS, JEAN AND I WILL INVESTIGATE THE HELLFIRE CLUB...

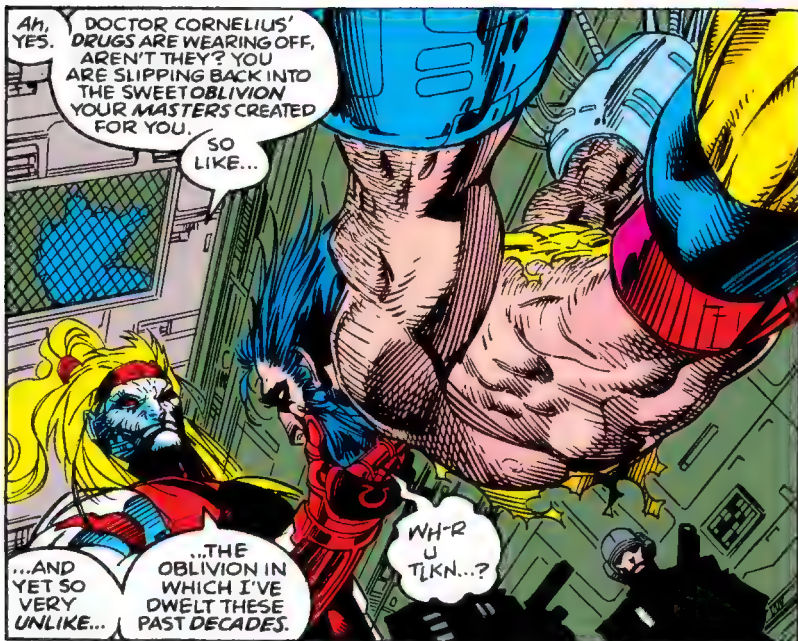
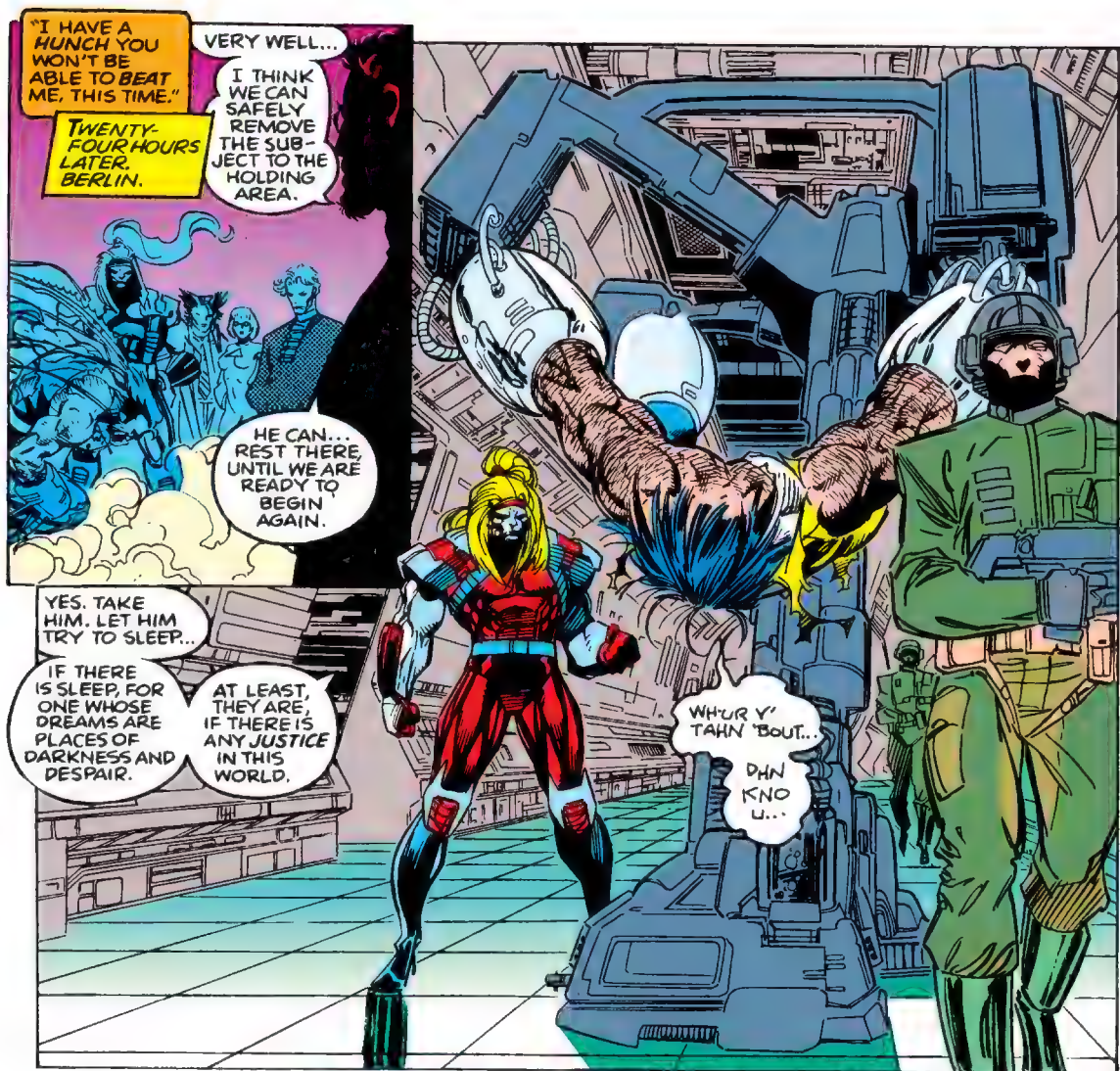
...WHILE CYCLOPS, BEAST, ROGUE, GAMBIT AND PSYLOCKE GO AFTER WOLVERINE AND HIS KIDNAPPERS.

\*YEP, ALL THIS TAKES PLACE BEFORE UNCANNY X-MEN #281--Bob.

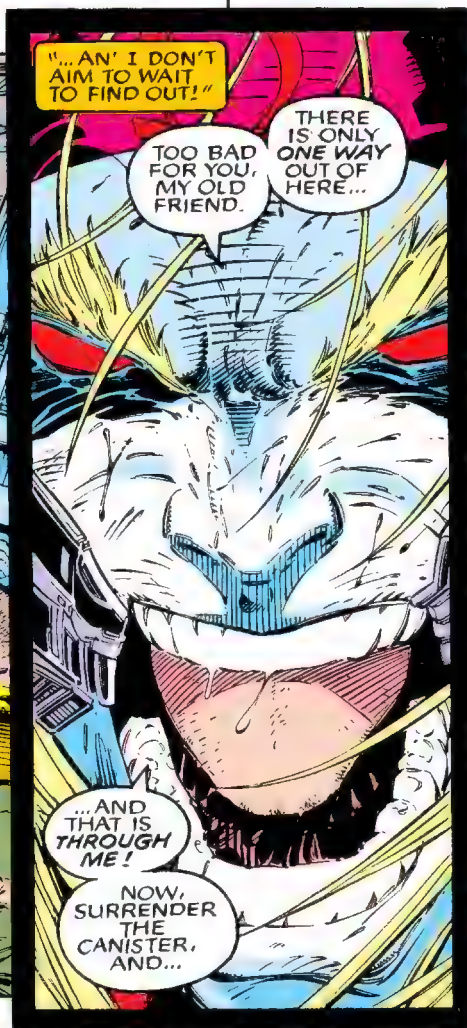
















SAVE YOUR BREATH...

...I DON'T WASTE MY TIME FIGHTIN' WHEN I DON'T KNOW THE GAME...

...NOW KEEP YER HEAD DOWN, LADY...

...AN' MAYBE ALL FOUR OF US'LL GET OUTTA HERE ALIVE.

SAVE THE JAWBONIN', LOGAN!

GET THE DAME TO THE...

DEAD END!

LOOKS LIKE WE WENT THE WRONG WAY, GUYS.

WE DON'T GET OUT THROUGH HERE!

HE'S RIGHT!

WE'RE TEN STORIES UP! NO WAY WE CAN JUMP!

KEEP UP THE COVERING FIRE!

THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY...

SHREK

SO WE BEGIN AGAIN, WOLVERINE.

THIS TIME WITHOUT THE DRUGS. WITHOUT THE WATCHFUL EYES.

THIS TIME THE VICTORY WILL BE TRULY MINE!

WRONG AGAIN, RED.

I SAID I WAS LEAVING...

...AND I AM!

NO!!!

I WILL NOT BE...

Eh?

THERE IS... NO BODY...?

YOU DARE SPEAK SO TO ME?

YOU DARE?!?

I DARE, OMEGA.

FOR IT WAS I WHO RESURRECTED YOU...

AND WAS IT NOT YOU, OMEGA RED...

WHO NOT SO LONG AGO CAUTIONED YOUR QUARRY AGAINST ASSUMPTION?

AND IT IS I... WHO SHALL RECAPTURE WOLVERINE...!





WELL, HANK?

GOT HIM, FEARLESS LEADER.

NOT A **PRECISE** CONTACT, BUT A **STRONG** ONE.

"STRONG ENOUGH TO LEAD US AT LEAST TO THE **BUILDING** HE'S IN..."

"AND IF WE'RE VERY **LUCKY** LITTLE MUTANTS..."

"...EVEN **CLOSER!**"

Uh-hh...

WHERE...

SAFE, FOR NOW.

LIE STILL, LOGAN. YOU'VE TAKEN SOME BEATINGS IN YOUR DAY--

--I KNOW, I WAS THERE FOR SOME OF 'EM--

CAN'T...

UH-HRR-GAH-GAK-GAK!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?

YOU'RE LUCKY I WAS THERE TO SAVE YOU.

NOW JUST LIE THERE AND **HEAL**. IT'S WHAT YOU DO **BEST**, NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE ELSE SAYS.

AND ONCE YOU'RE **FIT**, WE'RE OUT OF HERE AND...

-- BUT YOU'RE GONNA NEED ALL YOU CAN SQUEEZE OUT OF YOUR MUTIE **HEALING FACTOR** TO PULL THROUGH THE BEATING **OMEGA RED** GAVE YOU.

**BEEF-EEEP**

DEFENSE ALARMS!

THESE MONITORS ARE TIED INTO THE **STRUCKER KIDS' NETWORK**.

FROM HERE, I CAN SEE EVERYTHING THEY...

**RED!**

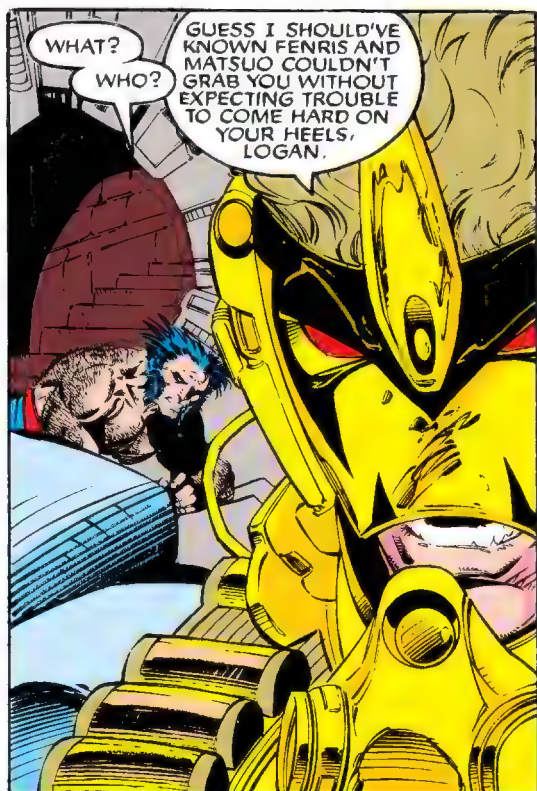
GOTTA FIND HIM.

CAN'T LET HIM...

**BLAST!**

SOMEONE APPROACHING.

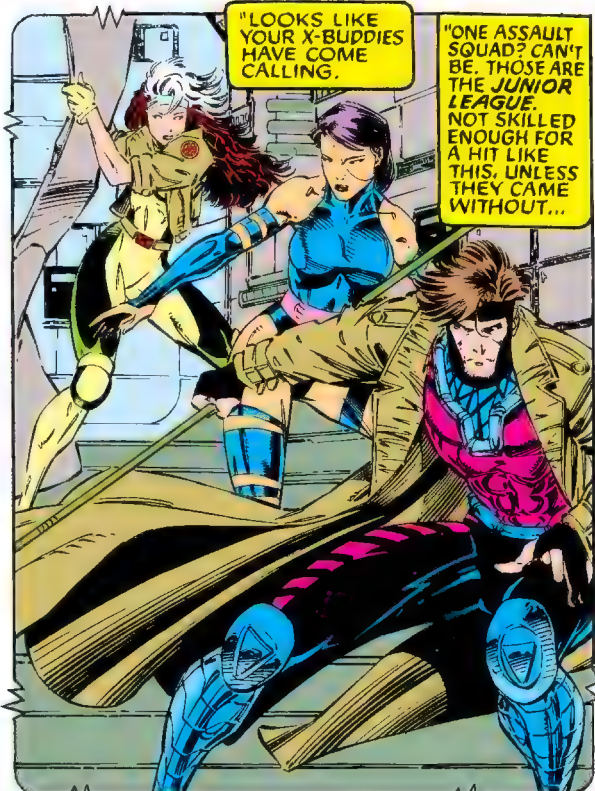




WHAT?

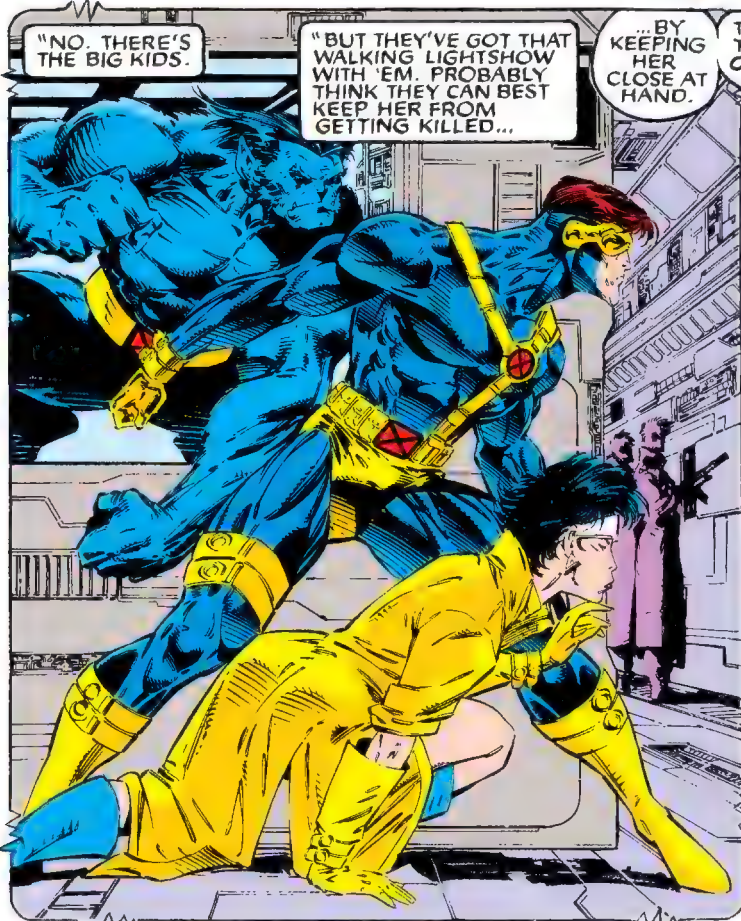
WHO?

GUESS I SHOULD'VE KNOWN FENRIS AND MATSUO COULDN'T GRAB YOU WITHOUT EXPECTING TROUBLE TO COME HARD ON YOUR HEELS, LOGAN.



"LOOKS LIKE YOUR X-BUDDIES HAVE COME CALLING.

"ONE ASSAULT SQUAD? CAN'T BE. THOSE ARE THE JUNIOR LEAGUE. NOT SKILLED ENOUGH FOR A HIT LIKE THIS, UNLESS THEY CAME WITHOUT...



"NO, THERE'S THE BIG KIDS."

"BUT THEY'VE GOT THAT WALKING LIGHTSHOW WITH 'EM. PROBABLY THINK THEY CAN BEST KEEP HER FROM GETTING KILLED..."

"...BY KEEPING HER CLOSE AT HAND."

TOO BAD FOR THEM. WE'RE OUT OF HERE, LOGAN.

AND THEY'RE DEAD.

LOGAN?

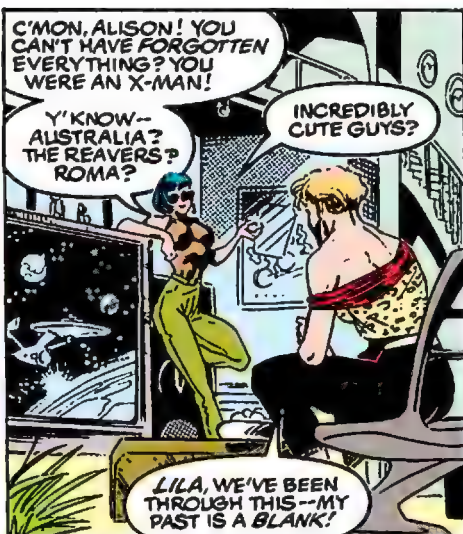


LOGAN ??





MALIBU,  
CALIFORNIA.



C'MON, ALISON! YOU  
CAN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN  
EVERYTHING? YOU  
WERE AN X-MAN!

Y'KNOW--  
AUSTRALIA?  
THE REAVERS?  
ROMA?

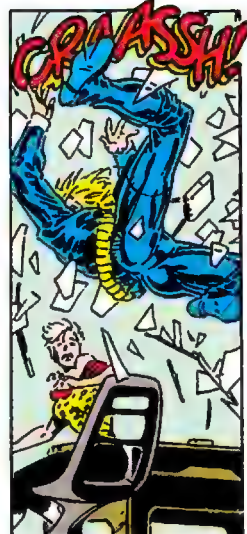
INCREDIBLY  
CUTE GUYS?

LILA, WE'VE BEEN  
THROUGH THIS--MY  
PAST IS A BLANK!

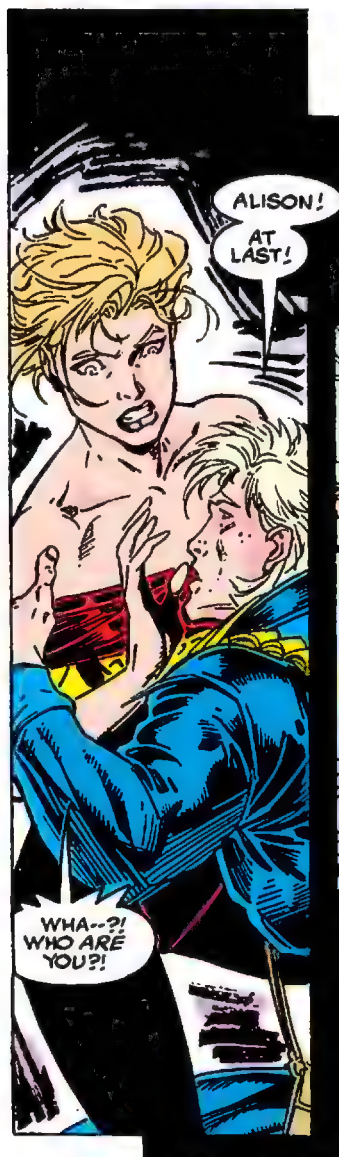


YOU THINK I'D AT  
LEAST REMEMBER  
THE CUTE GUYS.

BUT IT LOOKS  
LIKE, AS FAR AS  
MY MEMORY  
GOES, I'M OUTTA  
LUCK.



CRASH!



ALISON!  
AT  
LAST!

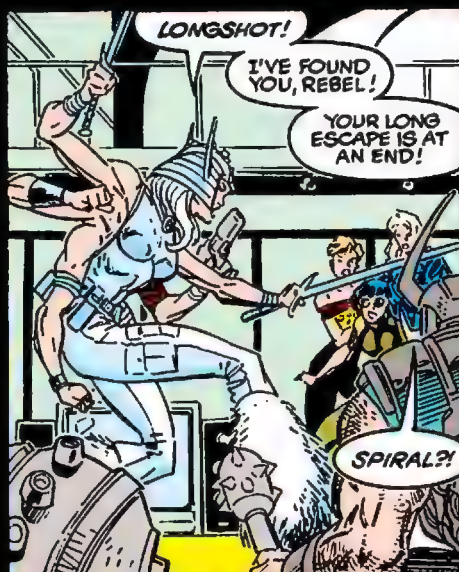
WHA--?!  
WHO ARE  
YOU?!



WE DON'T  
HAVE MUCH  
TIME,  
M'LOVE.

YOU  
CAN'T HAVE  
FORGOTTEN  
THIS.

AMHYLE

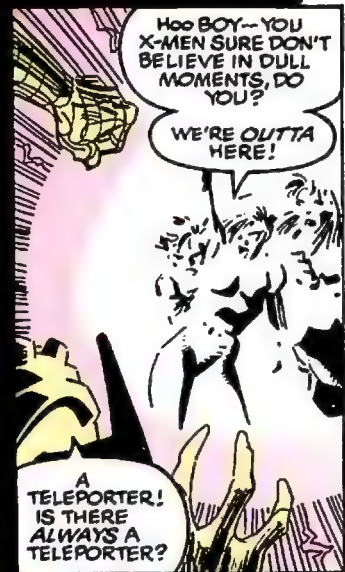


LONGSHOT!

I'VE FOUND  
YOU, REBEL!

YOUR LONG  
ESCAPE IS AT  
AN END!

SPIRAL?!



HOO BOY-- YOU  
X-MEN SURE DON'T  
BELIEVE IN DULL  
MOMENTS, DO  
YOU?

WE'RE OUTTA  
HERE!

A  
TELEPORTER!  
IS THERE  
ALWAYS A  
TELEPORTER?



IT DOESN'T  
MATTER. YOU  
HAVEN'T  
ESCAPED.

POOR LONGSHOT.  
HAVEN'T YOU YET  
REALIZED MOJO  
ALWAYS GETS  
HIS WAY...?

TO BE CONTINUED





MARVEL  
COMICS



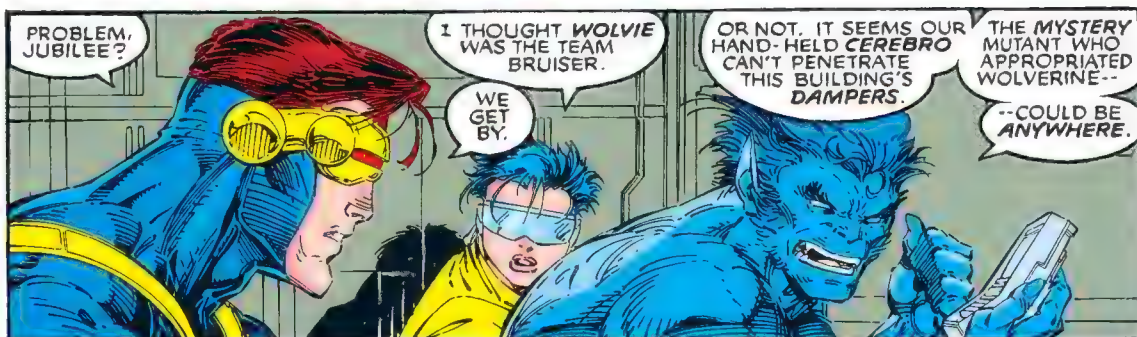
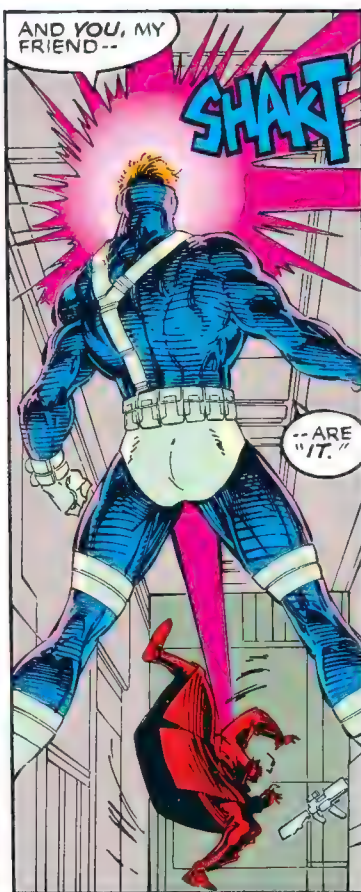
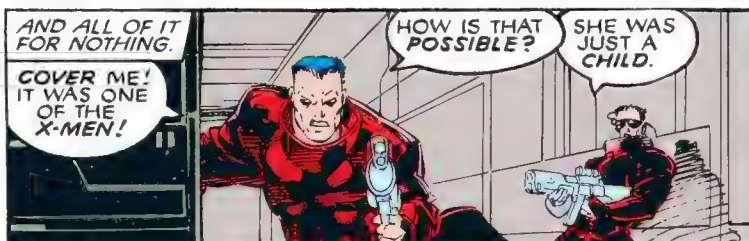
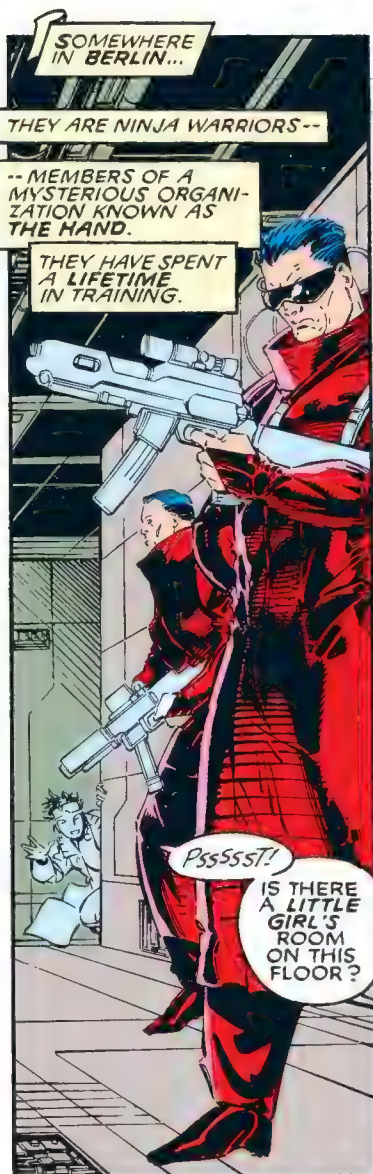
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APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

...ALONG CAME  
SABRETOOTH!





JIM LEE  
PLOT/  
ART

ART  
THIBERT  
FINISHER

SCOTT  
LOBDELL  
SCRIPTER

JOE  
ROSAS  
COLORIST

TOM  
ORZECOWSKI  
LETTERER

BOB  
HARRAS  
EDITOR

TOM  
DeFALCO  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



ALLOW ME TO  
SOLVE THIS  
PARTICULAR  
MYSTERY,  
BEAST.

MY NAME IS

**OMEGA  
RED!**

SEVERAL DECADES AGO,  
HE WAS TO BE THE  
WORLD'S FIRST SUPER  
SOLDIER-- IN SERVICE  
TO MOTHER RUSSIA!

INSTEAD, HE SPENT  
THE LAST THIRTY  
YEARS IN A TOMB.

**LOOK  
OUT!**

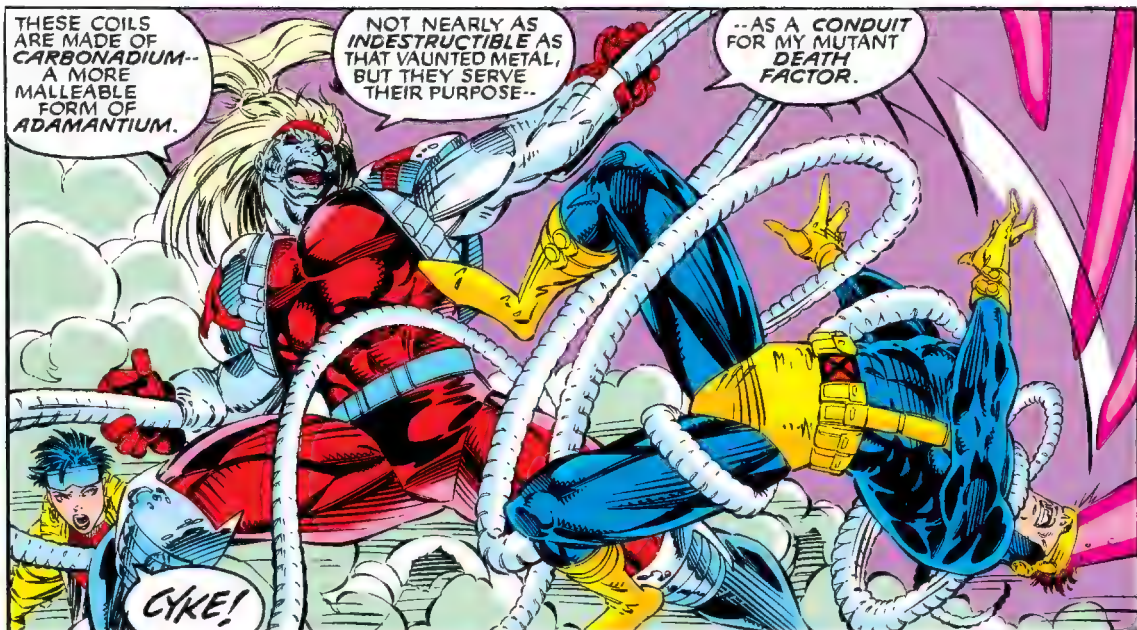
**HANK?!**

AND WHILE HE CAN  
NOT CURRENTLY  
AVENGE HIMSELF ON  
THE MAN HE HOLDS  
RESPONSIBLE--

-- HE WILL CONTENT  
HIMSELF WITH  
INFLECTING PAIN  
UPON HIS  
COMRADES!

**WAM**





THESE COILS ARE MADE OF CARBONADIUM-- A MORE MALLEABLE FORM OF ADAMANTIUM.

NOT NEARLY AS INDESTRUCTIBLE AS THAT VAUNTED METAL, BUT THEY SERVE THEIR PURPOSE--

--AS A CONDUIT FOR MY MUTANT DEATH FACTOR.

CYKE!



ALL RIGHT, SPAZ! YOU ASKED...

...FOR IT!

I AM ALSO CAPABLE OF RELEASING MY LETHAL PHEROMONES INTO THE AIR.



MOST PEOPLE CAN, RED!

JUS' TOO POLITE...

...I TALK ABOUT IT.



IF IT IS OF ANY CONSOLATION, CHILD...

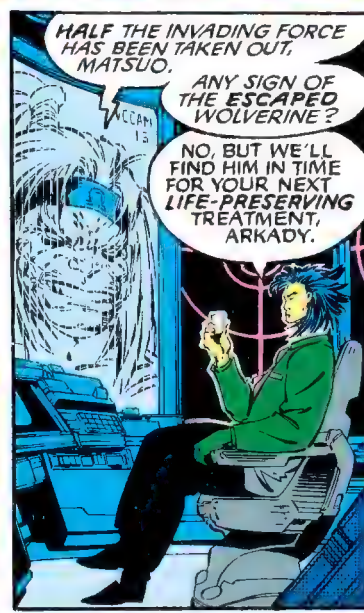
...THE SICKER YOU GET, THE BETTER I FEEL.



AND UNTIL I RECAPTURE YOUR PRECIOUS TEAMMATE...

WAP

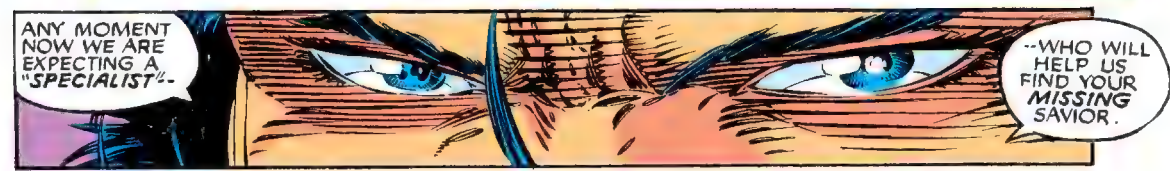
...I AM AFRAID I AM QUITE DEPENDENT UPON THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS.



HALF THE INVADING FORCE HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT, MATSUO.

ANY SIGN OF THE ESCAPED WOLVERINE?

NO, BUT WE'LL FIND HIM IN TIME FOR YOUR NEXT LIFE-PRESERVING TREATMENT, ARKADY.



ANY MOMENT NOW WE ARE EXPECTING A "SPECIALIST".

--WHO WILL HELP US FIND YOUR MISSING SAVIOR.



AT THAT MOMENT, SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY

IN A SUB-TERRANEAN CAVERN--

--A BATTLE OF A DIFFERENT KIND IS BEING WAGED.

<FOR A MUTANT RENOWN FOR HIS HEALING POWER--\*>

<--YOU'RE NOT IMPRESSING ME!>

\*TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN.

<DON'T THINK, BEING BEATEN NEARLY TO DEATH BY OMEGA RED-->

<--HAVING HALF YOUR BLOOD DRAINED FROM YOUR BODY-->

<--AND FALLING TEN STORIES TO THE PAVEMENT...\*>

<...IS ANY EXCUSE.>

\*ALL LAST ISSUE. --Bob

<HE'S NOT RESPONDING.>

<AND THE HEALING CELLS HE STOLE BACK-->

<WE ALL WONDERED IF YOU WERE IMMORTAL, LOGAN.>

<--ARE SPLATTERED ALL OVER THE SIDE-WALK.>

<I GUESS THE ANSWER'S NO.>

<NOT WITHOUT HELP, ANYWAY.>

HERE'S ENOUGH NEURO-APINEPHRINE TO WAKE ALL UNITED GERMANY!

THE REST IS UP TO YOU...

UP TO YOU

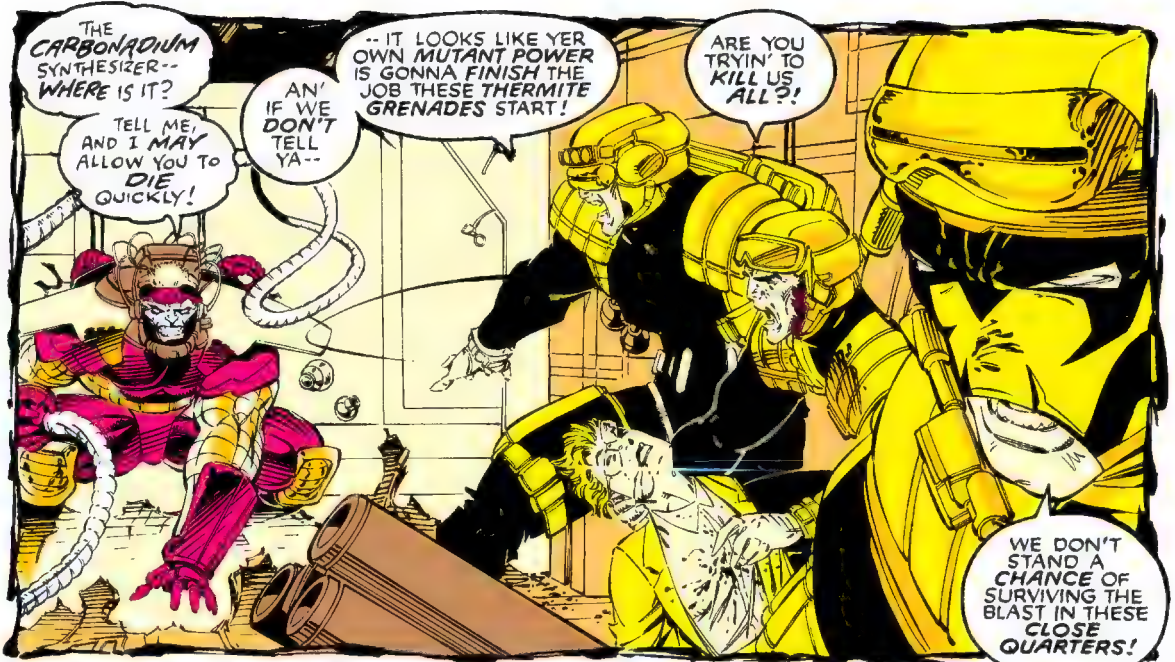
TO YOU

YOU











SOMEPLACE.

SOMEWHERE ELSE.

OTHER THAN THERE.

LILA-- THIS ISN'T, PER CHANCE, ONE OF THOSE "INCREDIBLY CUTE GUYS" YOU WERE REFERRING TO EARLIER? \*

MoJo!

WELCOME  
BA-ACK!

\* LAST  
ISSUE -- Bob.

THERE MUST  
BE A QUILLION  
ALTERNATE  
DIMENSIONS YOU  
COULD HAVE  
TELEPORTED US TO,  
MS. CHENEY--

-- AND  
YOU HAD  
TO CHOOSE  
MOJO'S  
WORLD?

IF IT  
MEANS  
ANYTHING--

--MY  
ORIGINAL  
DESTINATION  
WAS THE  
CRAB  
NEBULA.

\* THIS STORY TAKES PLACE AFTER EVENTS IN WOLVERINE #51-54 Bob

FREEDOM! FREEDOM TO THE FIRST  
GOPHER WHO BRINGS ME THE  
HEAD OF AN X-MAN!

A SICK  
DAY IF  
YOU  
BRING  
ME JUST  
A SPLEEN!





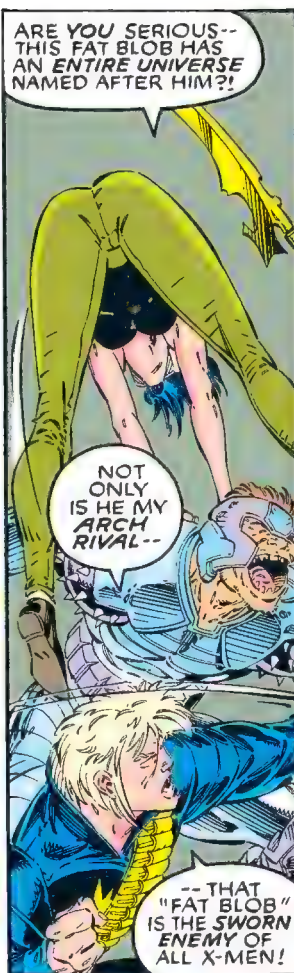
GRANTED, MY MEMORY ISN'T WHAT IT SHOULD BE--

THEORETICALLY.

EXCEPT THAT MY TRANS-DIMENSIONAL POWERS AREN'T WORKING!

-- BUT ISN'T THIS THE PART WHERE YOU TELEPORT US OUT OF HERE?

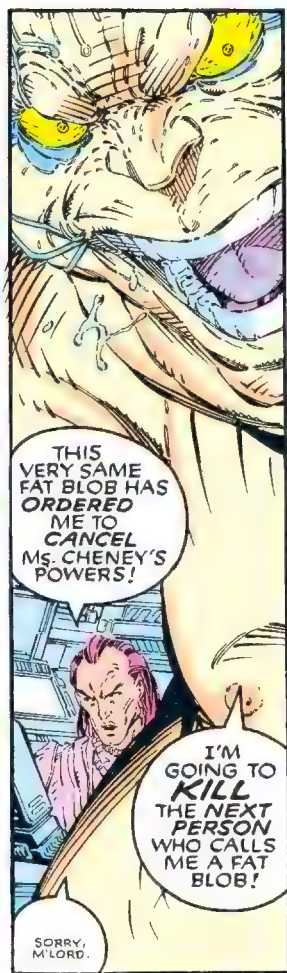
FOR THE MOMENT, ALISON, IT APPEARS WE ARE CAPTIVES OF THE MOJOVERSE!



ARE YOU SERIOUS-- THIS FAT BLOB HAS AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE NAMED AFTER HIM?!

NOT ONLY IS HE MY ARCH RIVAL--

-- THAT "FAT BLOB" IS THE SWORN ENEMY OF ALL X-MEN!



THIS VERY SAME FAT BLOB HAS ORDERED ME TO CANCEL MS. CHENEY'S POWERS!

I'M GOING TO KILL THE NEXT PERSON WHO CALLS ME A FAT BLOB!

SORRY, M'LORD.



YOU'RE TELLING ME I GAVE UP A PROMISING SINGING CAREER--

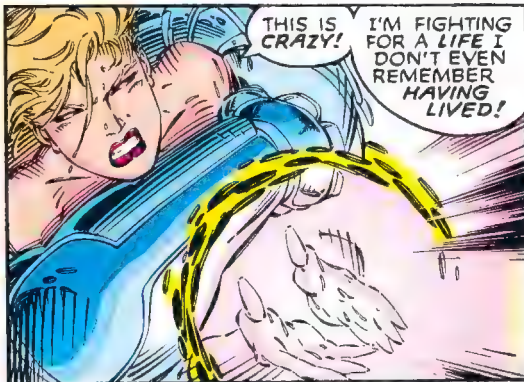
UNG

--SO I COULD SLUG IT OUT WITH THESE FREAKS?!

AMONG OTHERS.

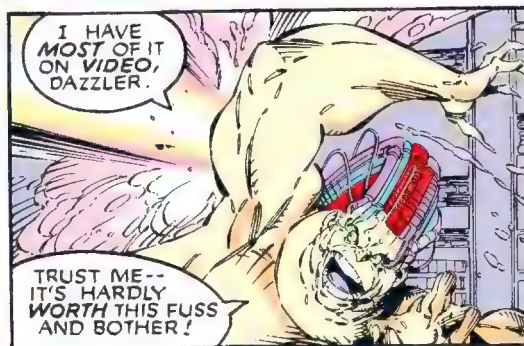
YOU USUALLY USED YOUR LIGHT POWERS.

HINT! HINT!



THIS IS CRAZY!

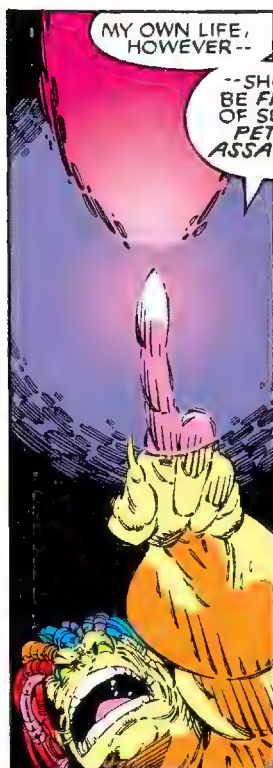
I'M FIGHTING FOR A LIFE I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER HAVING LIVED!



I HAVE MOST OF IT ON VIDEO, DAZZLER.

TRUST ME-- IT'S HARDLY WORTH THIS FUSS AND BOTHER!





MY OWN LIFE, HOWEVER--

--SHOULD BE FREE OF SUCH PETTY ASSAULTS!



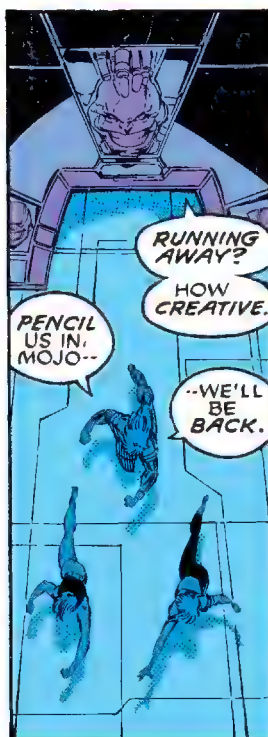
NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW, MOJO--

-- NO MATTER IF THE LAW IS YOUR OWN!

AND AS LONG AS I POSSESS MY MUTANT LUCK POWER--

-- AS LONG AS THERE IS LIFE LEFT WITHIN THESE HOLLOW BONES OF MINE...

... LONGSHOT WILL INSIST YOU BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR CRIMES AGAINST MY PEOPLE!



RUNNING AWAY?

HOW CREATIVE.

PENCIL US IN, MOJO--

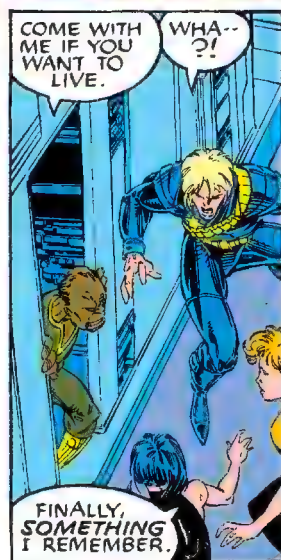
--WE'LL BE BACK.



MAYBE SOONER THAN I'D LIKE.

STOP THEM!

THEY CAN'T ESCAPE!



COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO LIVE.

WHA--?!

FINALLY, SOMETHING I REMEMBER.



IT'S FROM AN EARTH FILM.

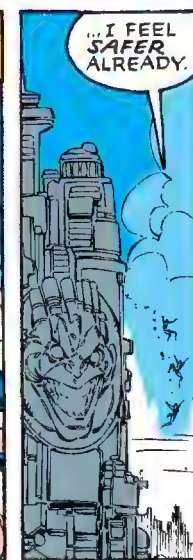
WE GET ALL THE LATEST RELEASES.

QUICKLY, THIS WAY!

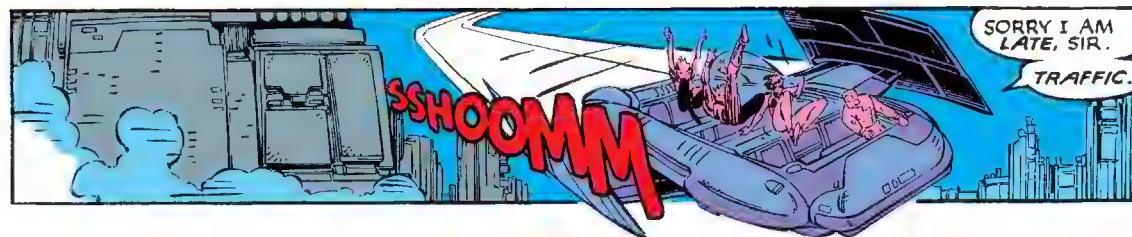


"IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!"

RIGHT...



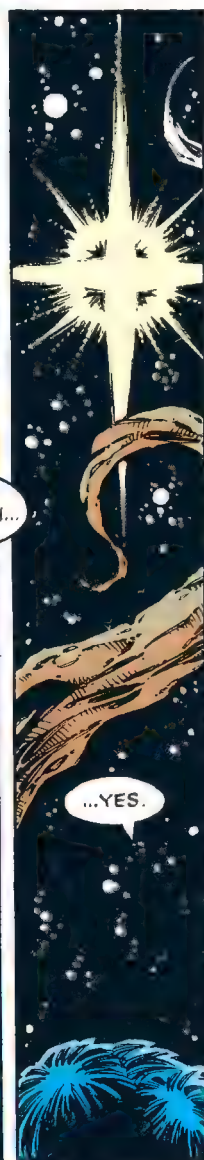
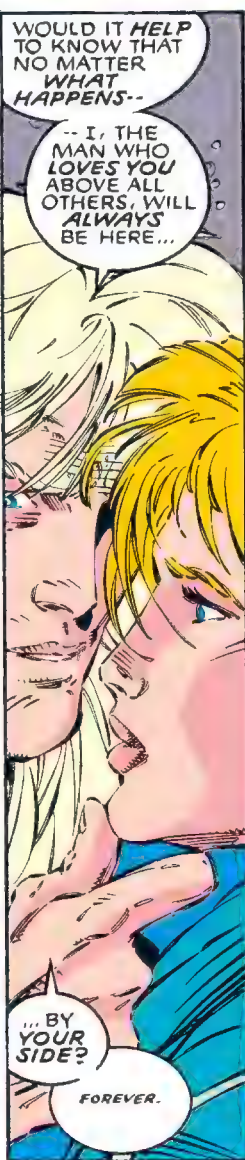
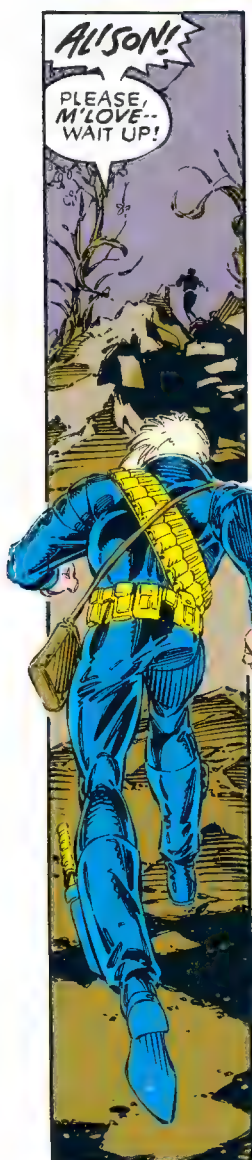
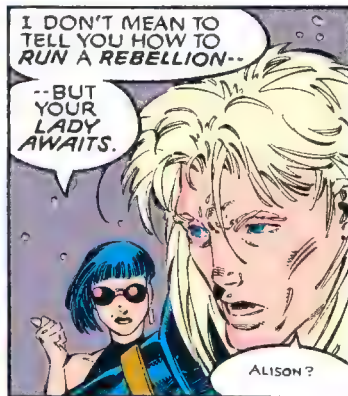
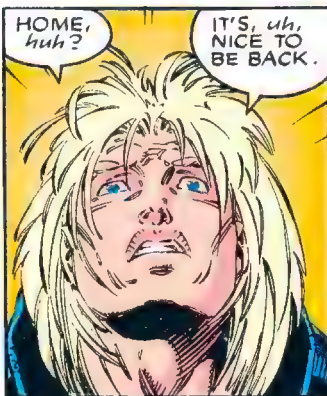
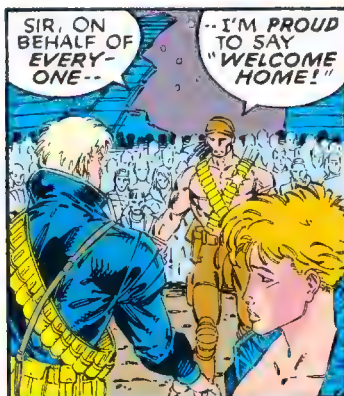
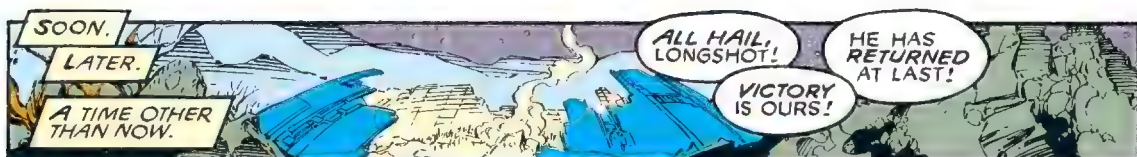
... I FEEL SAFER ALREADY.



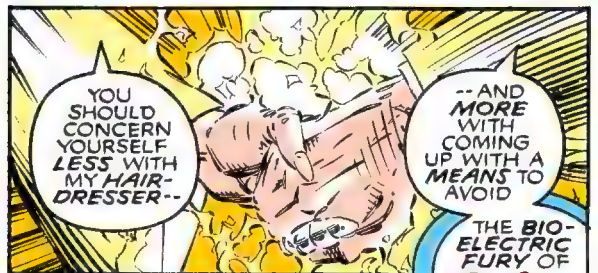
SORRY I AM LATE, SIR.

TRAFFIC.

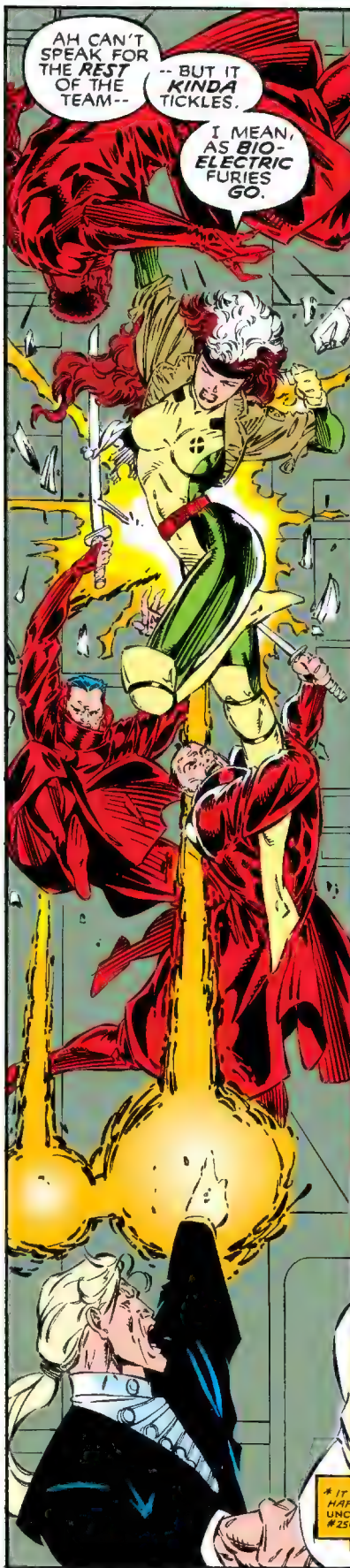












AH CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE REST OF THE TEAM--

-- BUT IT KINDA TICKLES.

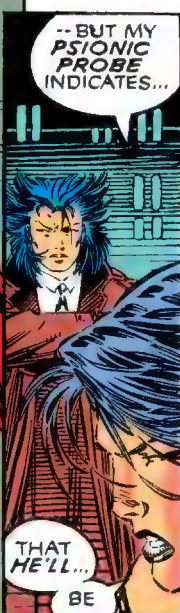
I MEAN, AS BIO-ELECTRIC FURIES GO.



HOW'S LOVERBAYOU?

HE TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE BLAST--

--AND THERE'S STILL A LOT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT GAMBIT--



--BUT MY PSIONIC PROBE INDICATES...

THAT HE'LL... BE



FINE.



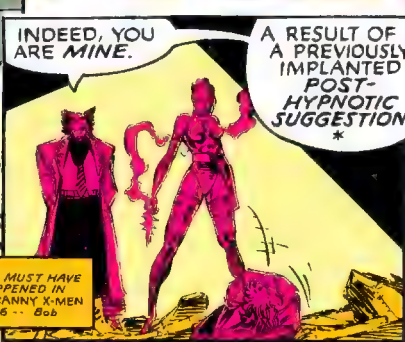
YOU DON'T SOUND VERY CONFIDENT, GIRL.

I AM SORRY.

FOR WHA --?!

FOR THIS.

MY ACTIONS ARE NOT MY OWN.



INDEED, YOU ARE MINE.

A RESULT OF A PREVIOUSLY IMPLANTED POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION. \*

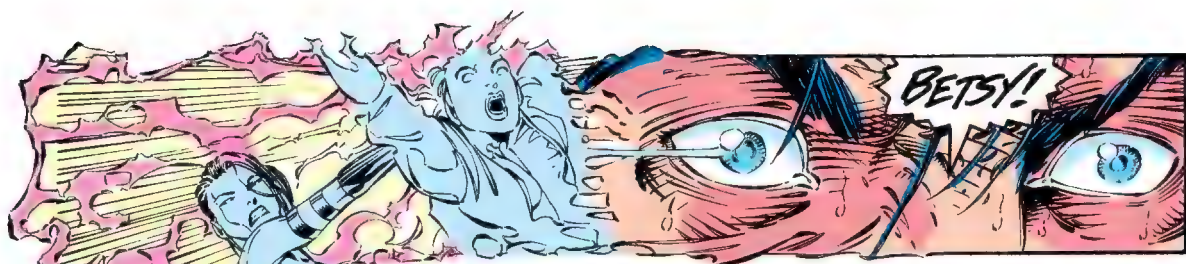
\* IT MUST HAVE HAPPENED IN UNCANNY X-MEN #256 -- Bob



NOW, COME ALONG, MS. BRADDOCK.

AND BRING THE BAIT.





AT LAST, A RESPONSE.

THAT'S IT, LOGAN--  
WORK IT THROUGH.

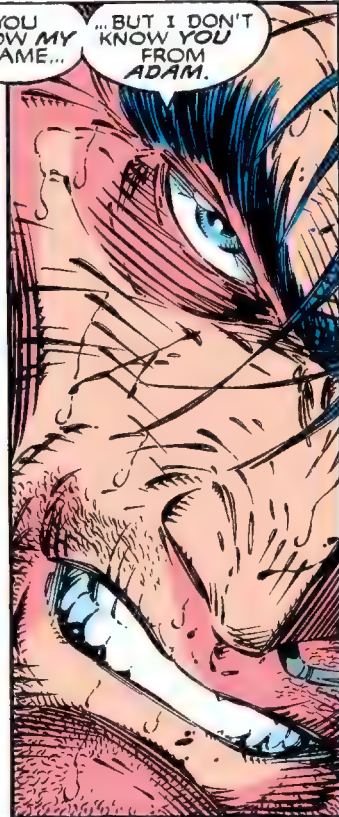
YOU  
KNOW MY  
NAME...

...BUT I DON'T  
KNOW YOU  
FROM  
ADAM.



**SNICK**

YOU  
GOT ME AT  
A DIS-  
ADVANTAGE,  
BUB.



THE LOOK  
IN HIS  
EYES-- HE'S  
TELLING THE  
TRUTH!

IT MEANS  
THE MAJOR'S  
INTELLIGENCE  
REPORTS WERE  
ACCURATE.

LOGAN HAS NO  
ACCESS TO HIS  
MEMORIES OF TIME  
SPENT AS A C.I.A.  
OPERATIVE! \*

"WE WERE A SMALL  
GROUP THEN-- A  
HAND-PICKED CADRE  
OF AGENTS FROM  
DIFFERENT  
COUNTRIES.

"LOGAN FROM CANADA..."

"CREED FROM WHO  
KNOWS WHERE..."

"AND ME, THE RESIDENT  
WEST GERMAN  
FREEDOM FIGHTER.


"WE WERE  
QUITE THE  
TEAM.

"UNTIL CREED  
SNAPPED..."



"IT WAS YEARS BEFORE WE LEARNED WHAT CREED ALREADY SUSPECTED..."

"...THAT HE AND LOGAN SHARED AN ACCELERATED HEALING FACTOR."



"...WHILE MY MUTANT POWER TO ABSORB KINETIC IMPACT BARELY SAVED ME FROM THAT TEN STORY DROP."

"IT WASN'T UNTIL THE DEBRIEFING TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER--"

"--THAT WE ALL STARTED POUNDING NAILS INTO THE TEAM'S COFFIN."

"--THE LOSS OF THE G-SYNTHESIZER IS UNACCEPTABLE!"

"YOUR INCOMPETENCE HAS SEVERELY COMPROMISED--"

"OUR INCOMPETENCE ?!"



"IT WAS YER SHODDY 'INTELLIGENCE' THAT GOT US INTA THAT NO-WIN SCENARIO AND COST THE LIFE OF--"

"DON'T YOU DARE, CREED!"

"YOU KILLED JANICE-- IN COLD BLOOD-- BECAUSE YOU PANICKED!"



"SHUT UP, LOGAN!"

"IT AIN'T YER PLACE T' QUESTION ME, BOY. NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ASSIGNMENT."

"--NOT EVER!"

"I SAVED YER SORRY HIDE MORE TIMES'N I CAN REMEMBER!"



"YOU'RE MINE, BOY--"

"--AND THE DAY IS GONNA COME WHEN I COLLECT!"

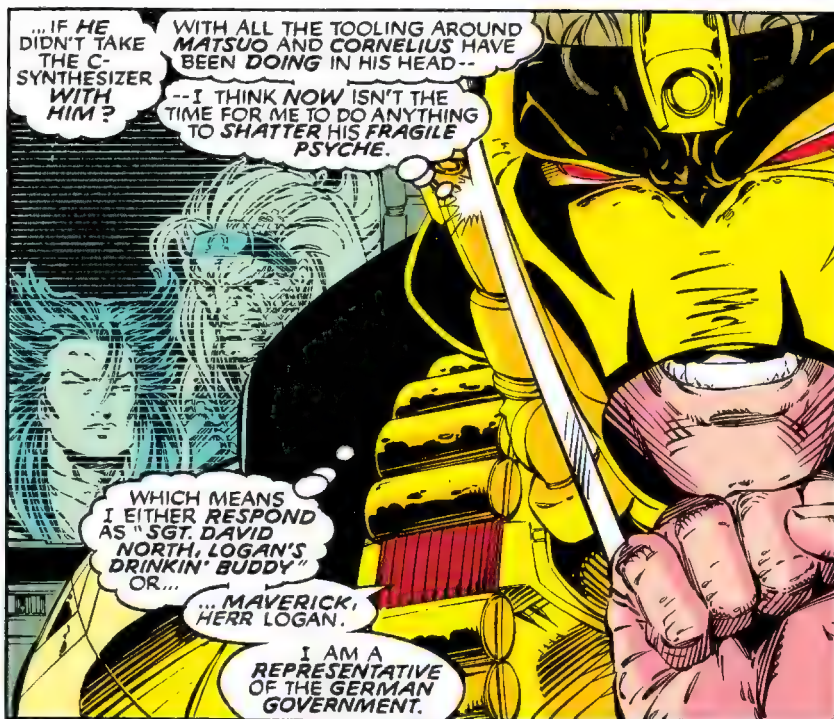


"LOGAN WALKED OUT WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A GLANCE OVER HIS SHOULDER--"



"--AND TO THIS DAY, I WONDER..."





...IF HE DIDN'T TAKE THE C-SYNTHESIZER WITH HIM?

WITH ALL THE TOOLING AROUND MATSUO AND CORNELIUS HAVE BEEN DOING IN HIS HEAD--

--I THINK NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR ME TO DO ANYTHING TO SHATTER HIS FRAGILE PSYCHE.

WHICH MEANS I EITHER RESPOND AS "SGT. DAVID NORTH, LOGAN'S DRINKIN' BUDDY" OR...

... MAVERICK, HERR LOGAN.

I AM A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

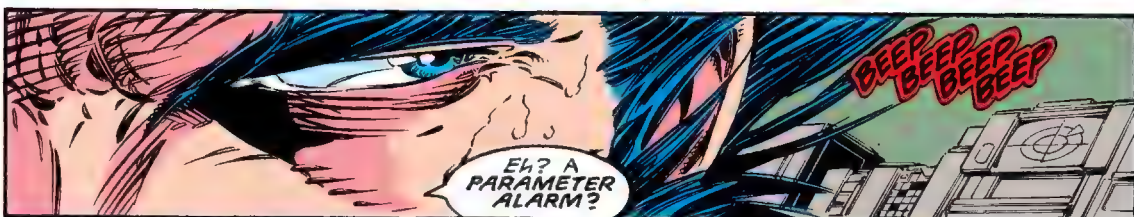


AN' I'M BULLWINKLE.

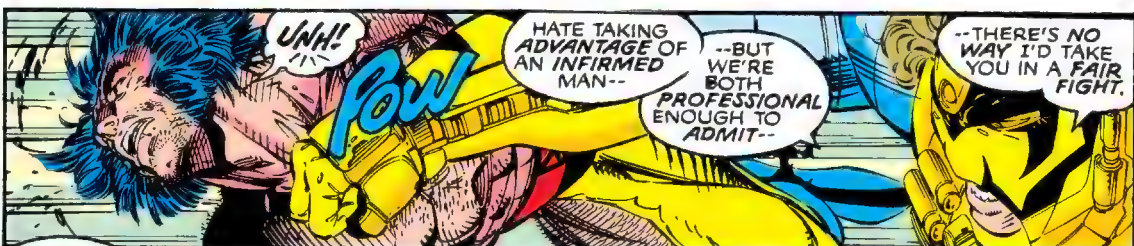
KEEP YER SECRETS, BUB.

JUST TELL ME WHAT YA DID TO THE X-MEN--

--OR WE PLAY MY VERSION OF THREE CLAW MONTE.



EH? A PARAMETER ALARM?



UHH!

POW

HATE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AN INFIRMED MAN--

--BUT WE'RE BOTH PROFESSIONAL ENOUGH TO ADMIT--

--THERE'S NO WAY I'D TAKE YOU IN A FAIR FIGHT.



MY MISSION IS TO BRING YOU IN ALIVE.

BUT I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO IMPROVE.



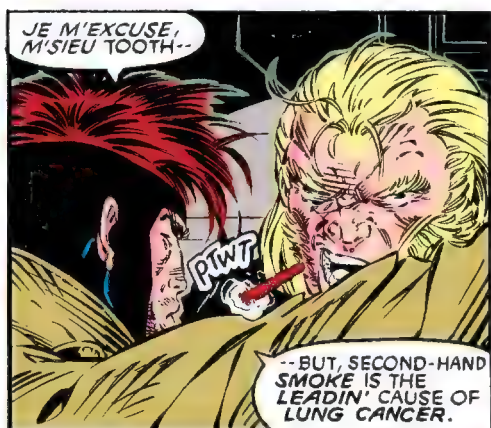
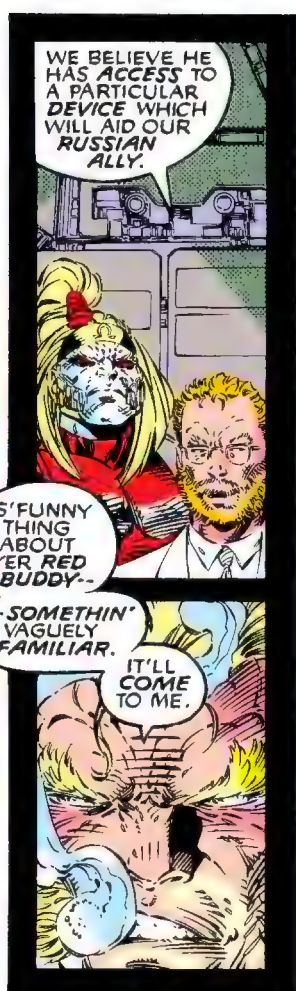
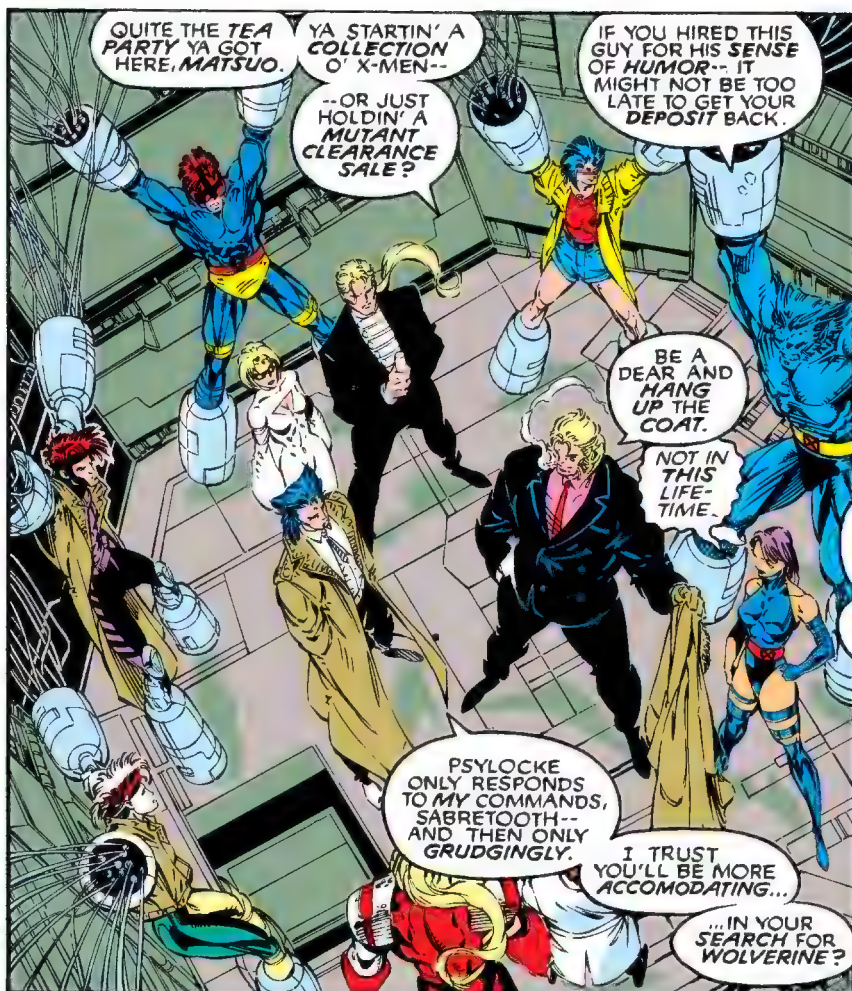
NOW, UNLESS YOU'VE GOT ADAMANTIUM EYELIDS...

CREED ?!













MUST BE  
MOMMA GAMBIT'S  
CAJUN RECIPE.

CAN'T  
WAIT FER  
SECONDS.



BUT YOU'LL PARDON ME IF I  
START WITH AN APPETIZER?

AHEM!

...I'M  
NOT  
SCARED  
OF YOU.

HARDLY.

AT  
ALL.



YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS  
OF YOUR OWN,  
SABRETOOTH!

EVEN AS WE SPEAK,  
AN ARMY OF KILLER  
ANDROIDS IS ON  
YOUR TRAIL!



BRRRRR.  
I'LL START  
SHAKING  
AS SOON AS  
PSYLOCKE  
AND I  
RETURN.

WHERE  
ARE WE  
GOING?

DON'T  
PLAY ME  
STUPID,  
LADY.



I KNOW  
ABOUT YER  
PSYCHIC  
BOND  
WITH THE  
KID.

AN' ON  
MATSUO'S  
SAY-SO--

--YER  
GONNA  
LEAD ME  
RIGHT  
TO HIM.



YOU  
WANNA  
GO OVER  
THIS  
ONE  
MORE  
TIME?



YOU'RE TAKIN' ME  
TO SOMEONE  
CALLED THE  
MAJOR--

--BECAUSE HE  
BELIEVES YOU  
KNOW THE  
WHEREABOUTS  
OF THE C-  
SYNTHESIZER!

WHICH IS THE  
SAME REASON  
OMEGA RED AND HIS  
COMRADES ARE SO  
DESPERATE TO--



UHM--  
THEY  
FOUND  
US.

YOUR BOND  
WITH PSYLOCKE?



BINGO.  
WHICH MEANS  
SABRETOOTH  
IS ON HIS  
WAY.

TELL ME,  
MAVERICK...

...YOU READY  
TO TAKE HIM  
ALL ON YOUR  
LONESOME?

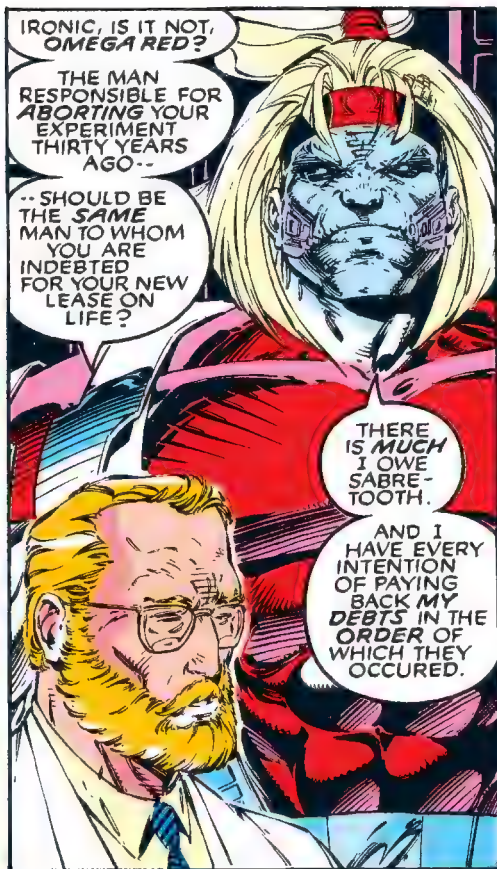
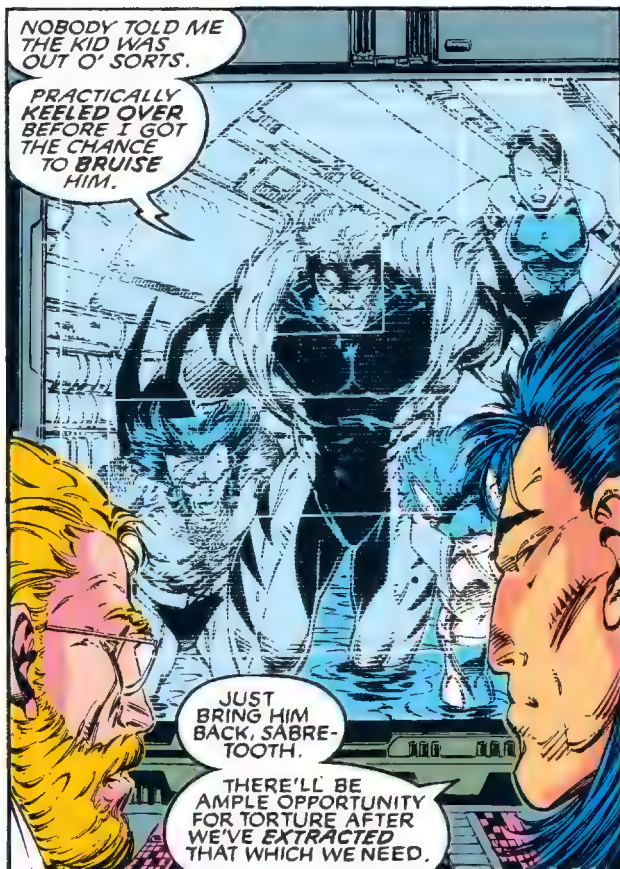
















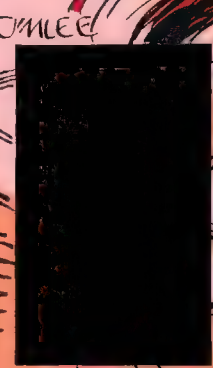
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**ART THIBERT**  
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**SCOTT LOBDELL**  
DIALOGUE

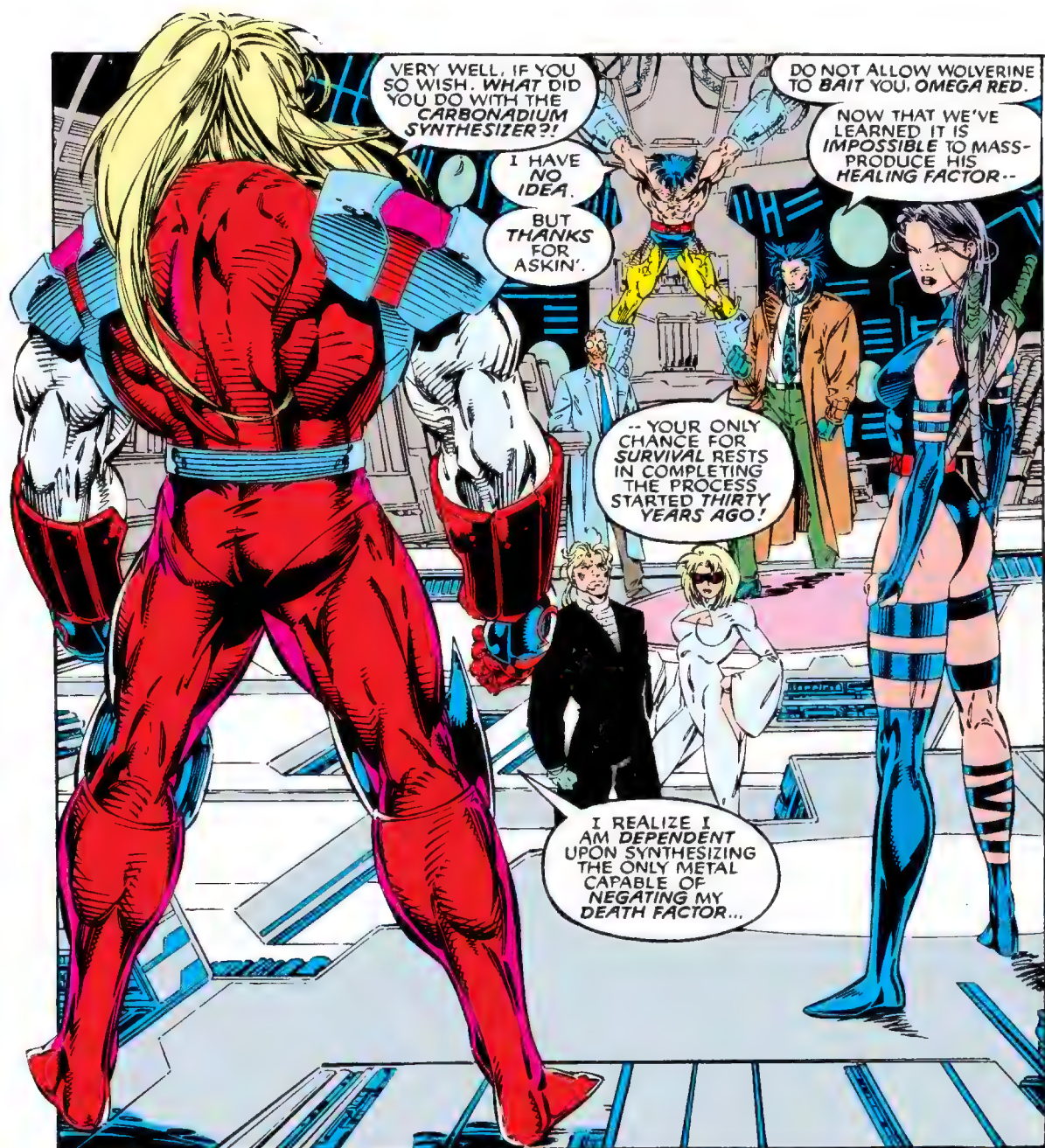
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COLORING

**BOB HARRAS**  
EDITOR

**TOM DeFALCO**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF





VERY WELL, IF YOU SO WISH. WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER?!

I HAVE NO IDEA.

BUT THANKS FOR ASKIN'.

DO NOT ALLOW WOLVERINE TO BAIT YOU, OMEGA RED.

NOW THAT WE'VE LEARNED IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MASS-PRODUCE HIS HEALING FACTOR--

-- YOUR ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL RESTS IN COMPLETING THE PROCESS STARTED THIRTY YEARS AGO!

I REALIZE I AM DEPENDENT UPON SYNTHESIZING THE ONLY METAL CAPABLE OF NEGATING MY DEATH FACTOR...

... BUT I WOULD RATHER PRY THE INFORMATION FROM WOLVERINE'S BRAIN--

--BY HAND!

YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE AND FAILED!

LET SCIENCE SUCCEED WHERE BRUTE STRENGTH HAS NOT.

INDEED.

DOCTOR... I SHALL NOT ASK AGAIN.

YOU'VE BEEN WARNED--



--IT IS UNLIKELY  
THAT HE'LL  
SURVIVE

SURVIVE

SURVIVE

SURVIVE  
WORSE  
SCENARIOS  
THAN THIS?

MAYBE,  
NORTH-- BUT  
NONE SPRING  
TO MIND.

THE RUNT  
IS RIGHT.  
I'M FOR  
CUTTIN' OUR  
LOSSES.

I SAY WE  
FORGET THE MOLE--  
CONCENTRATE ON  
SNAGGIN' THAT  
METAL-MAKIN'  
TECHNOLOGY.

NEVER  
DID TRUST  
DOUBLE-  
AGENTS  
ANYWAY.

WE GOT  
OUR ORDERS,  
CREED... AND  
GETTIN' JANICE  
OUTTA THERE  
IS PART  
OF 'EM.

TRUE,  
LOGAN--  
BUT THE  
MAJOR  
COULDN'T  
HAVE  
KNOWN...

...THE RUSSIANS  
ARE ONLY  
MOMENTS  
AWAY FROM  
PERFECTING  
THEIR SUPER  
SOLDIER  
PROCESS!

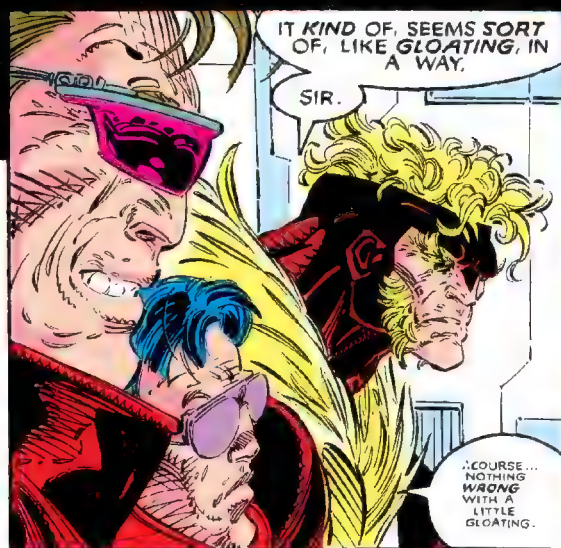
LOGAN, YOU  
GRAB THE  
DOOHICKEY.

NORTH'S  
IN CHARGE  
OF THE  
DAME.

ME?

I'M GONNA  
WISH IVAN  
THERE A  
BIG OL'  
HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!

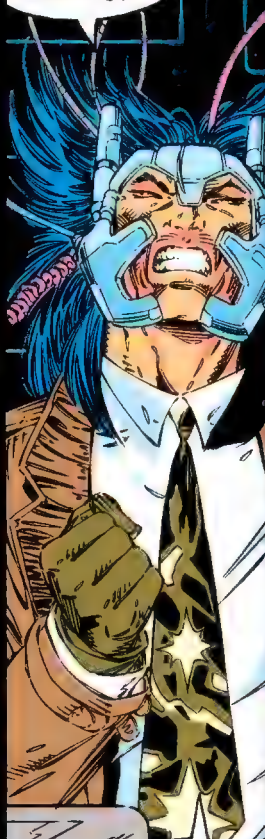






ABOVE...

WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON THESE CAUTIONARY PROBES, CORNELIUS!

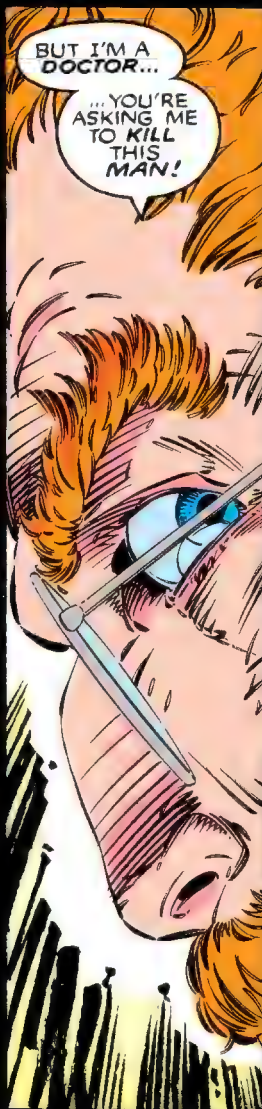


THIS DEVICE ALLOWS ME TO MONITOR WOLVERINE'S MEMORIES AS THEY OCCUR--

--AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE DID WITH THE C-SYNTHESIZER!

BUT I'M A DOCTOR...

...YOU'RE ASKING ME TO KILL THIS MAN!



THEN, I TAKE IT YOU'D RATHER YOUR OWN LIFE BE FORFEIT IN THE MUTANT'S STEAD?!

THERE IS MORE AT WORK HERE THAN YOUR FEEBLE ATTEMPTS AT MORALITY!



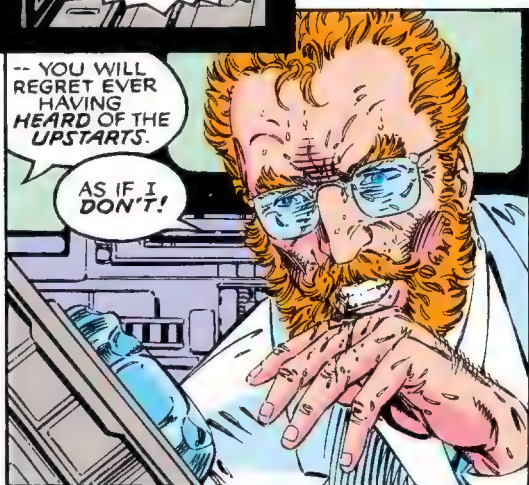
CARBONADIUM IS A CHEAPER, MORE MALLEABLE VERSION OF ADAMANTIUM!

IF ITS SECRETS DIE WITH WOLVERINE--



-- YOU WILL REGRET EVER HAVING HEARD OF THE UPSTARTS.

AS IF I DON'T!

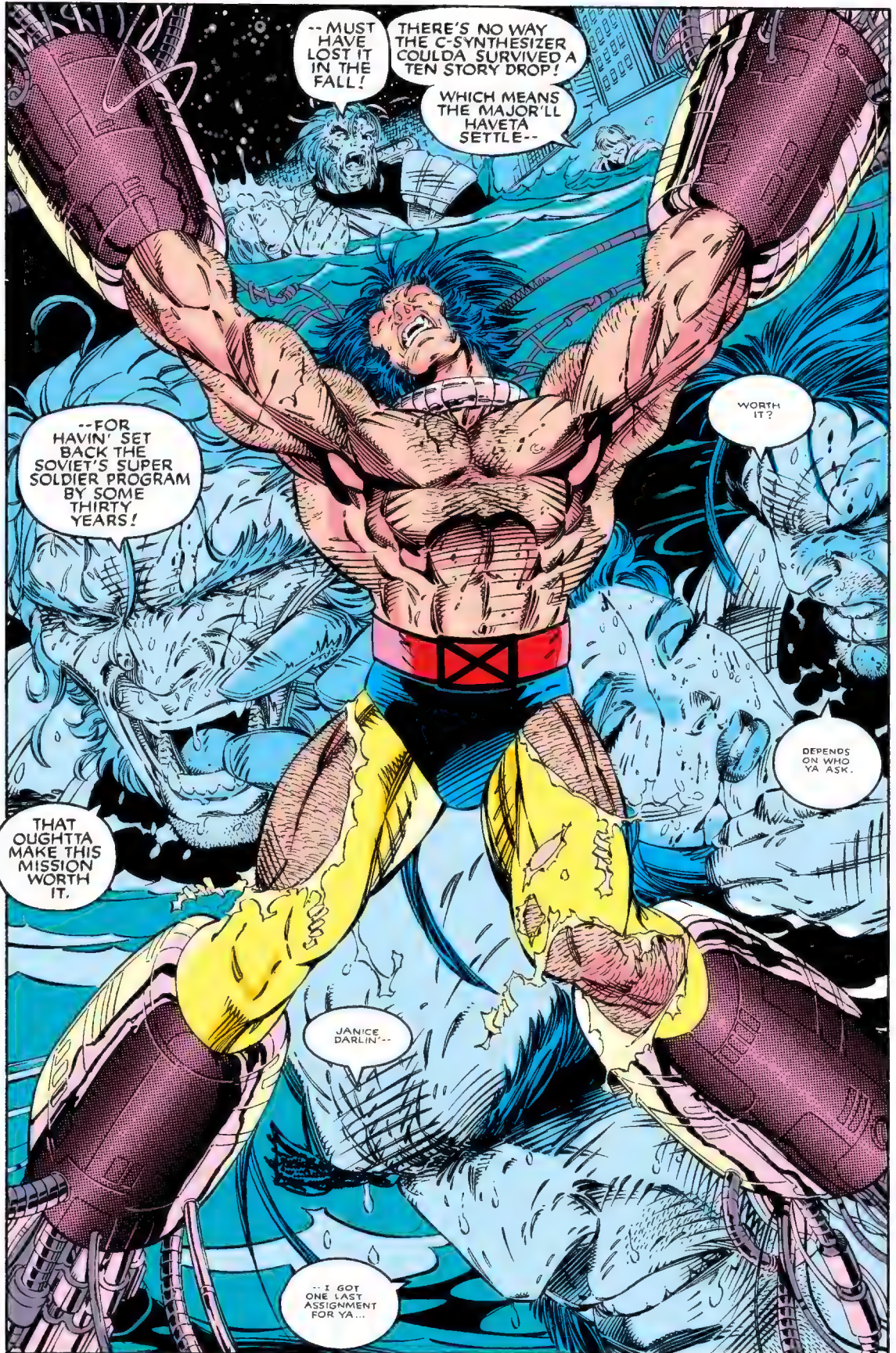


FORGIVE ME, LOGAN...

...YOU'VE ALREADY SUFFERED MUCH AT MY HANDS







-- MUST  
HAVE  
LOST IT  
IN THE  
FALL!

THERE'S NO WAY  
THE C-SYNTHESIZER  
COULDA SURVIVED A  
TEN STORY DROP!

WHICH MEANS  
THE MAJOR'LL  
HAVETA  
SETTLE--

--FOR  
HAVIN' SET  
BACK THE  
SOVIET'S SUPER  
SOLDIER PROGRAM  
BY SOME  
THIRTY  
YEARS!

WORTH  
IT?

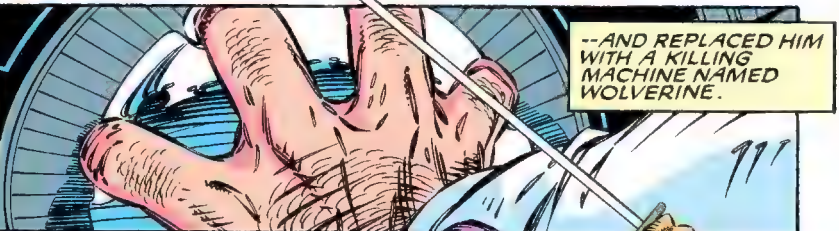
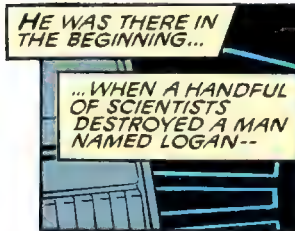
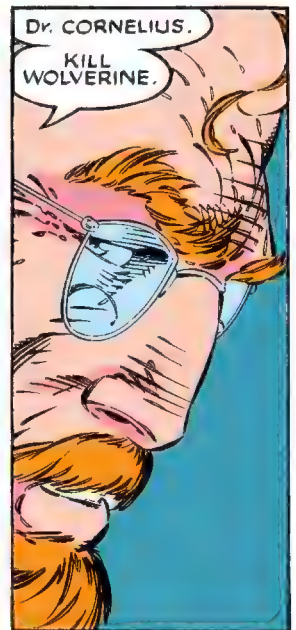
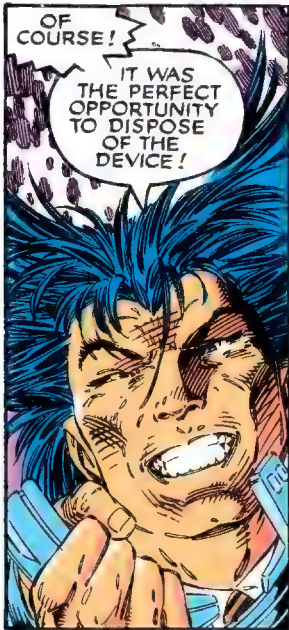
DEPENDS  
ON WHO  
YA ASK.

THAT  
OUGHTTA  
MAKE THIS  
MISSION  
WORTH  
IT.

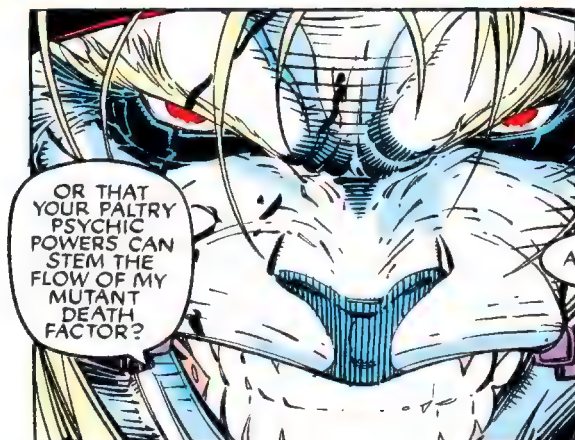
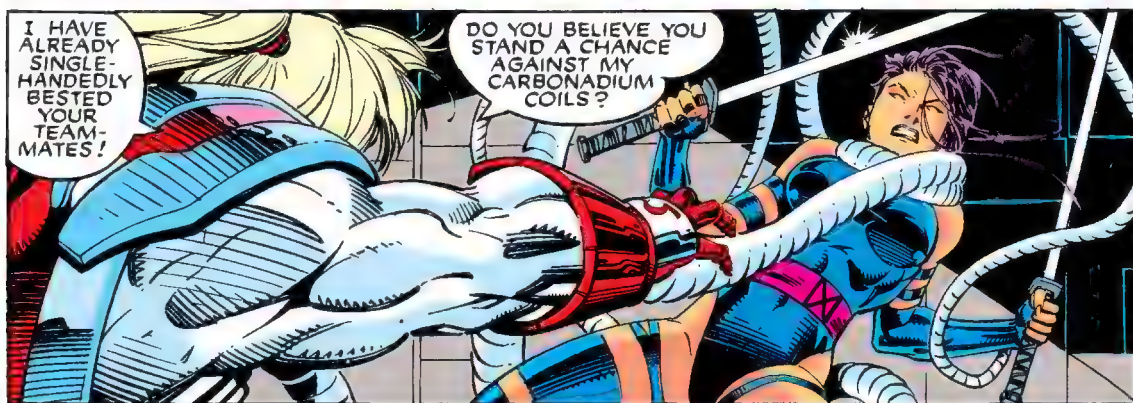
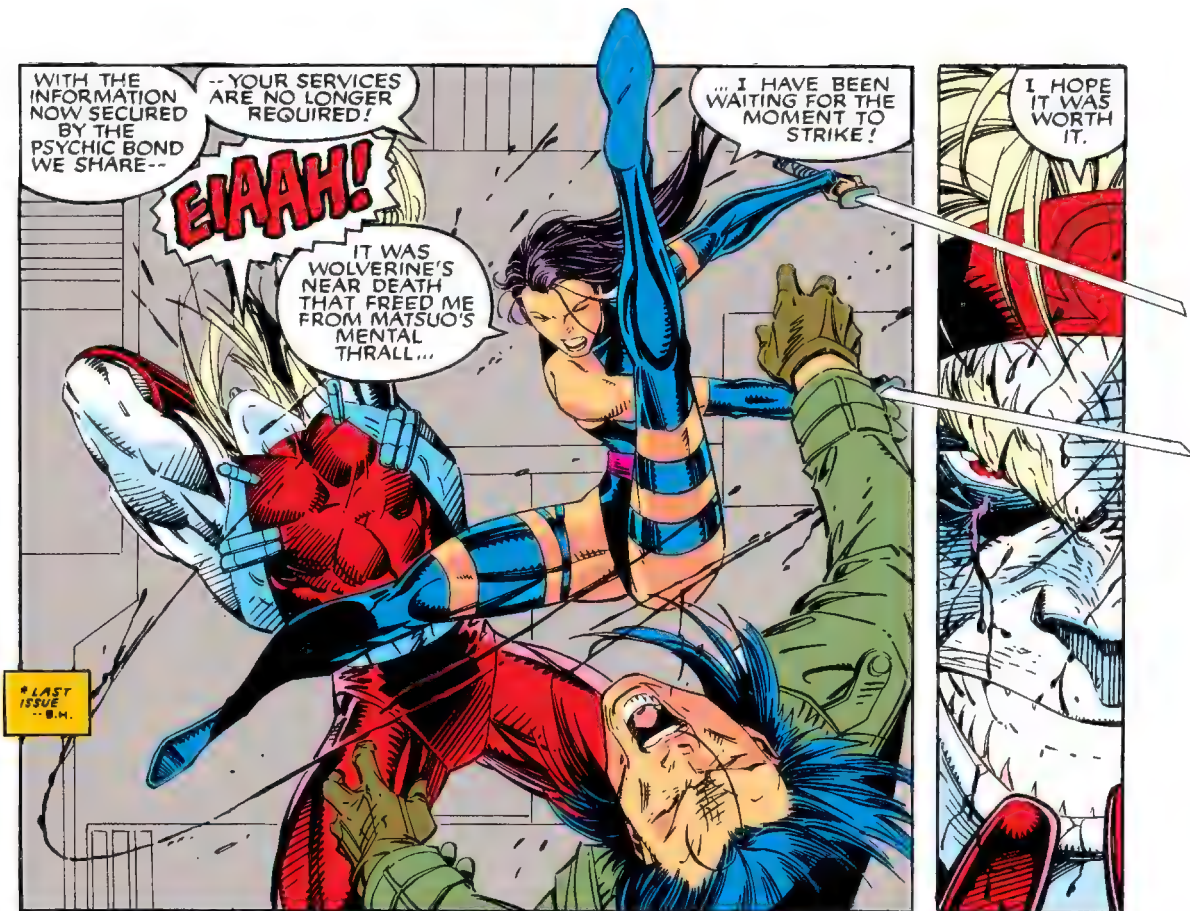
JANICE  
DARLIN--

-- I GOT  
ONE LAST  
ASSIGNMENT  
FOR YA...

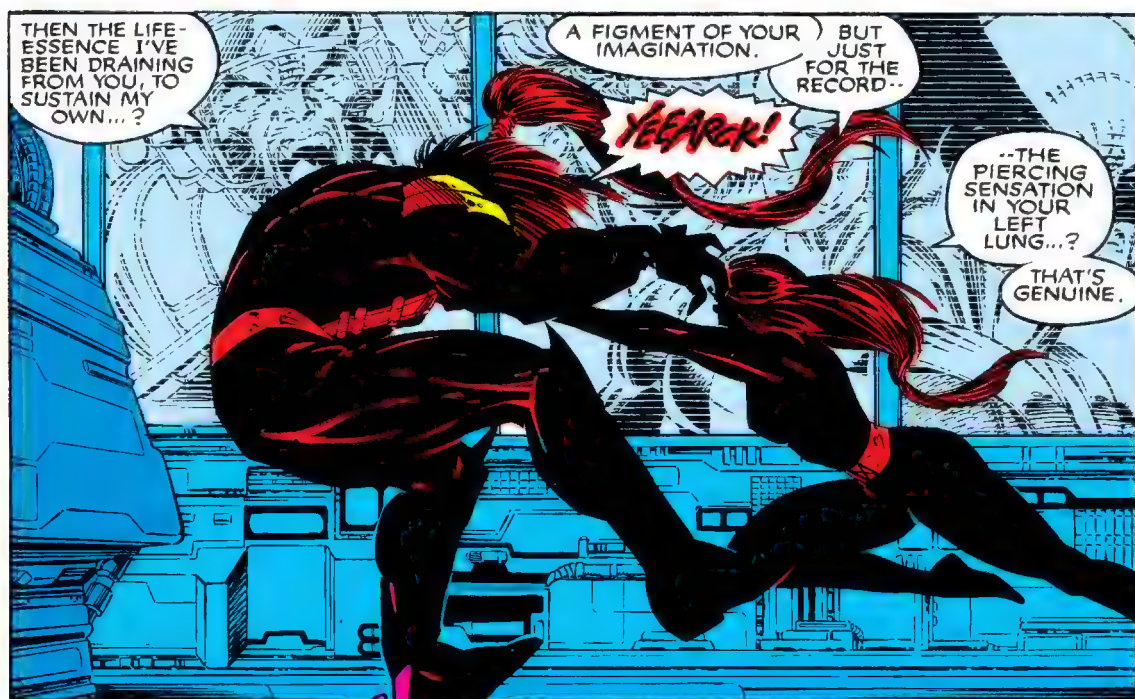
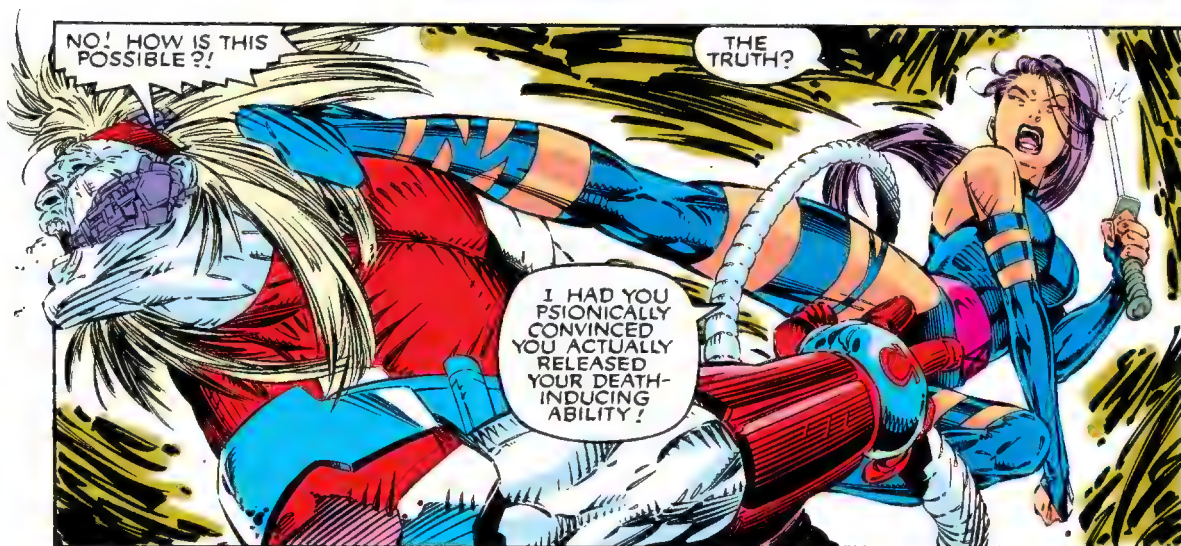




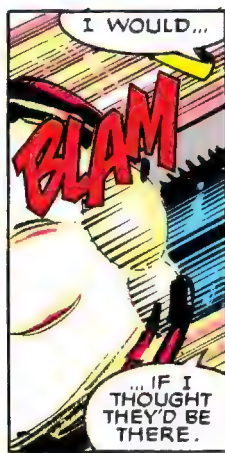
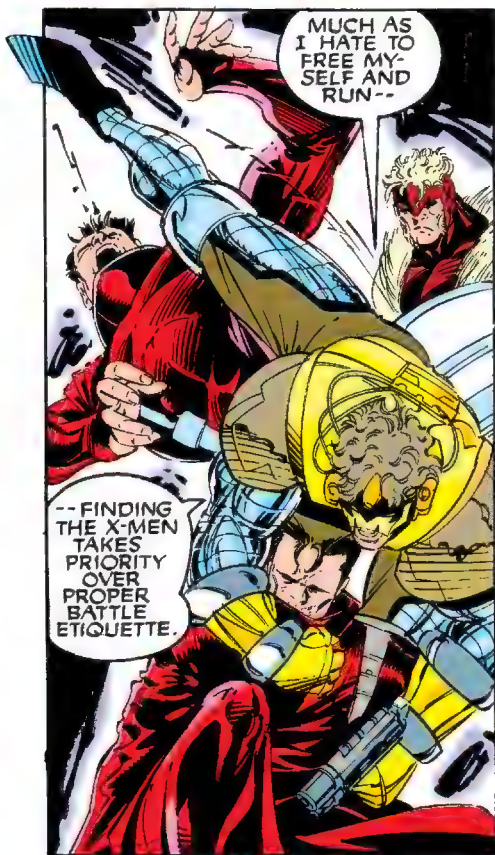
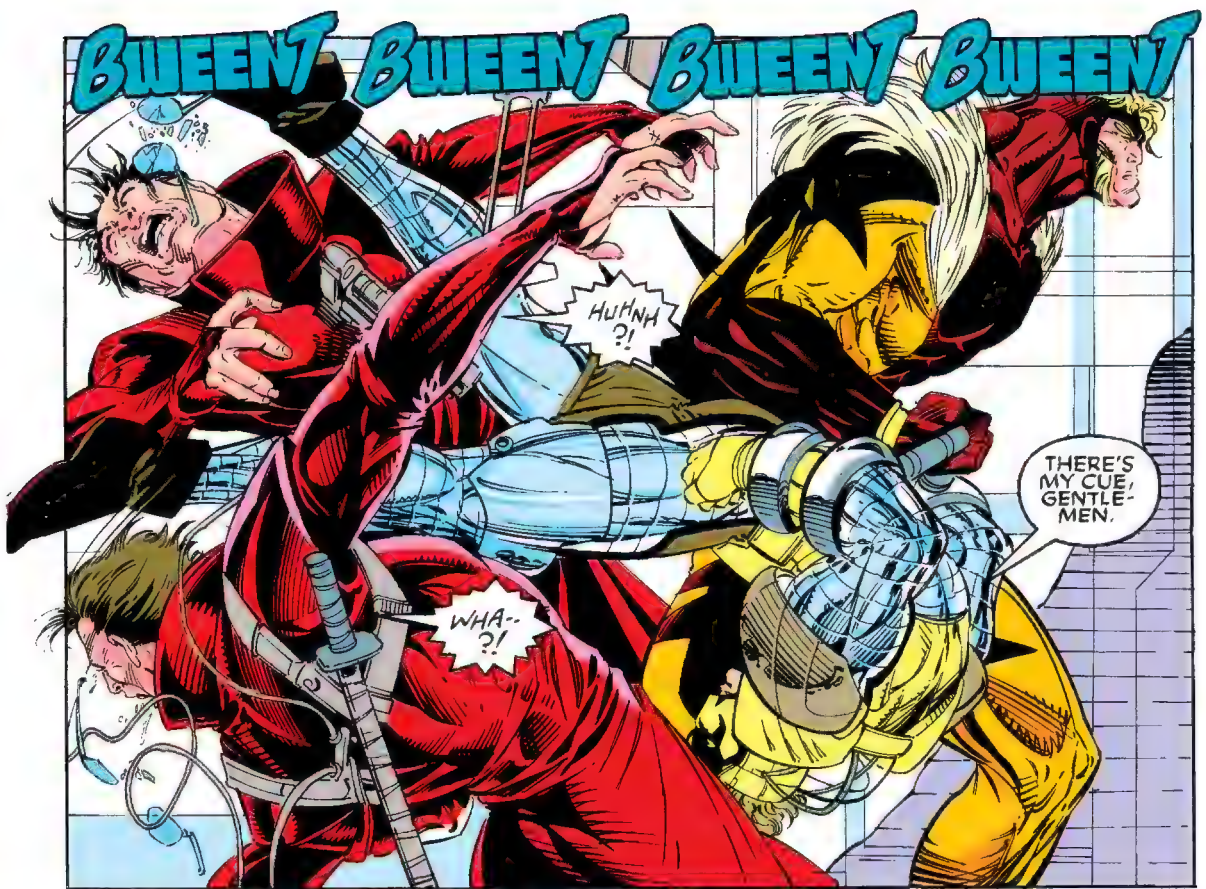




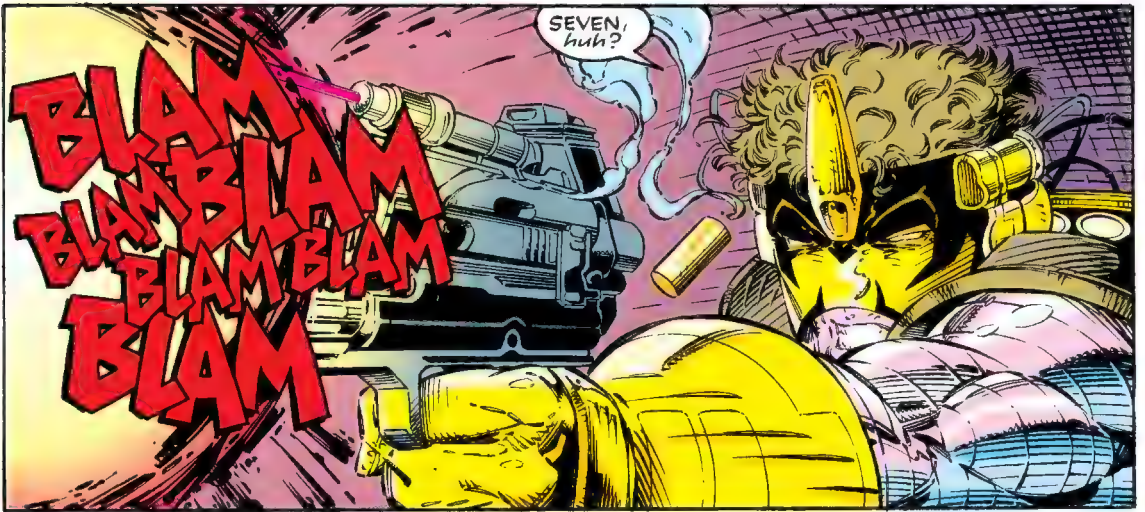














I AM HONOR  
BOUND TO  
AVOID ANY  
UNNECESSARY  
VIOLENCE...

...BY OFFERING  
ANYONE THIS  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
SURRENDER.

SURRENDER  
?!

AFTER  
WHAT YOU'VE  
DONE TO MY  
SISTER?!

SHUT UP,  
STRUCKER!

IT IS  
OBVIOUS  
THE  
WOMAN IS  
BLUFFING!

SHE KNOWS  
I GROW  
WEAKER WITH  
EVERY MOMENT  
I'M KEPT FROM  
THE C-  
SYNTHESIZER!

IF THAT IS  
INDEED THE  
CASE--

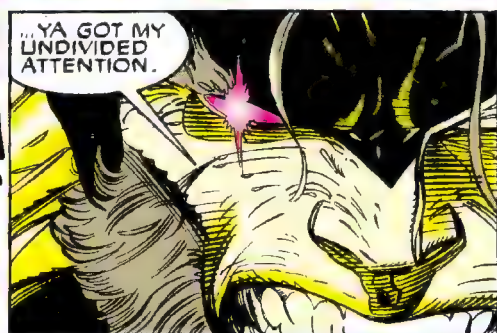
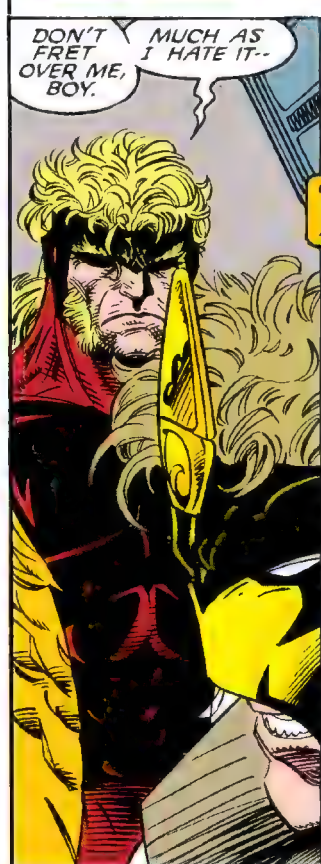
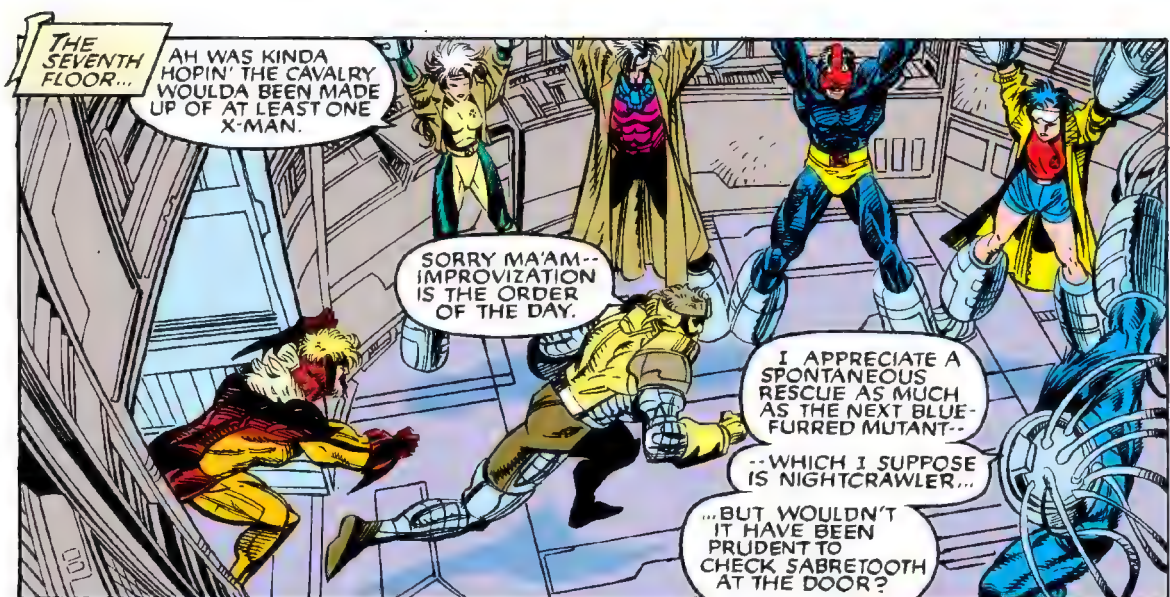
-- PERHAPS  
YOU SHOULD  
CONSERVE  
YOUR  
ENERGY?

OMEGA RED  
NEED NO  
LONGER  
CONCERN YOU,  
MY FORMER  
STUDENT.

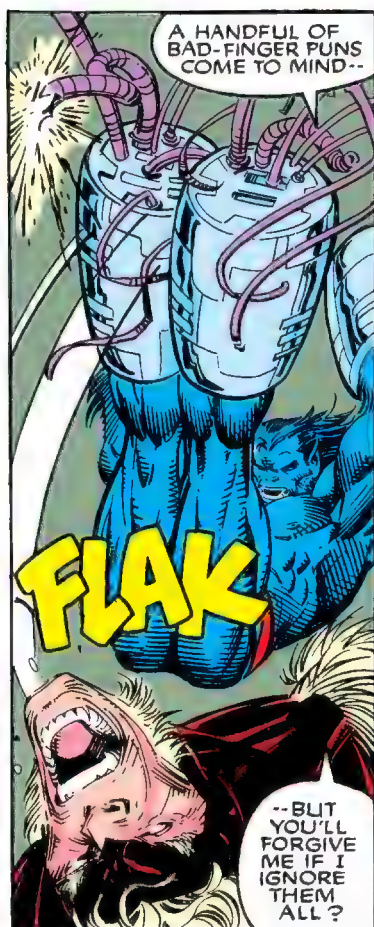
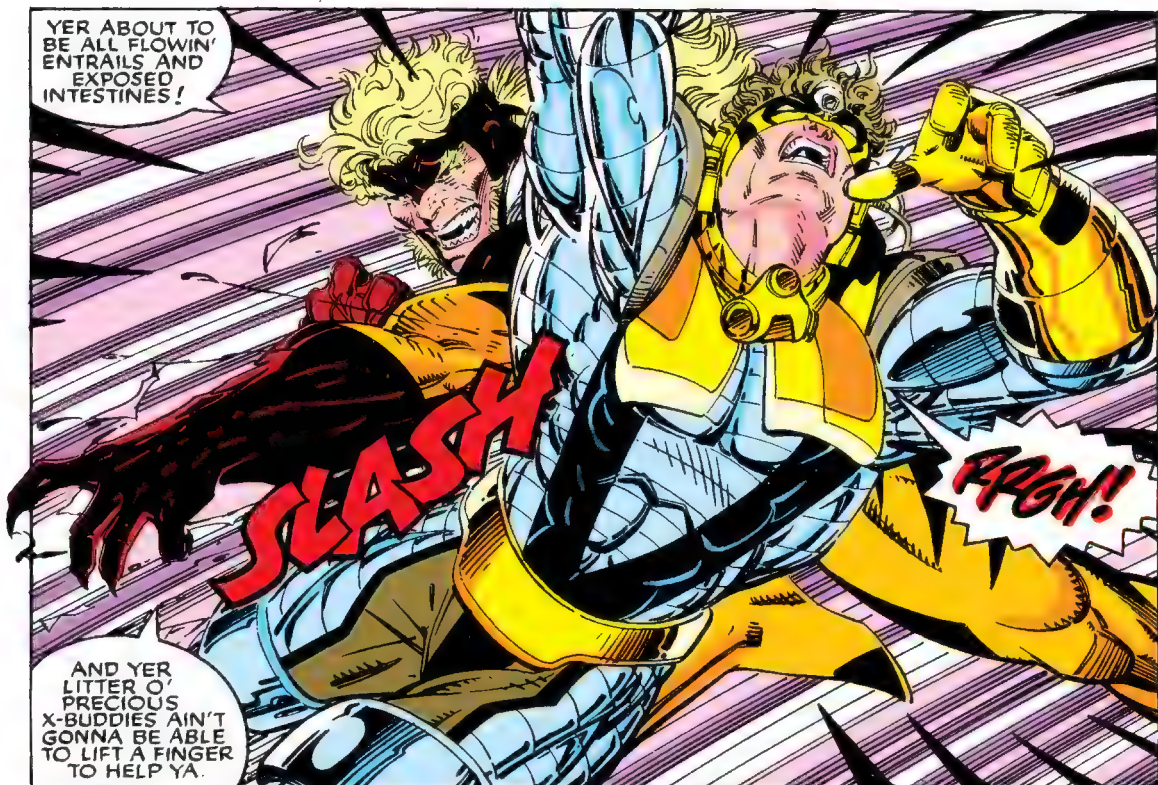
YOU HAVE  
ENOUGH TO  
WORRY  
ABOUT--

--IN THESE  
LAST FEW  
MOMENTS  
OF LIFE !











AT LAST, THE FINAL  
OBSTACLE HAS  
BEEN REMOVED.

WITH THE X-MEN  
INDISPOSED--

--AND THE  
C-SYNTHESIZER  
WITHIN OUR  
GRASP...

...NOTHING  
CAN STAND  
IN OUR WAY.

YA MEAN  
T'TELL  
ME--

-- A  
MUTANT  
HEALIN'  
FACTOR...

...THREE HUNDRED  
POUNDS O'  
ADAMANTIUM  
SKELETON! WITH  
CLAWS--

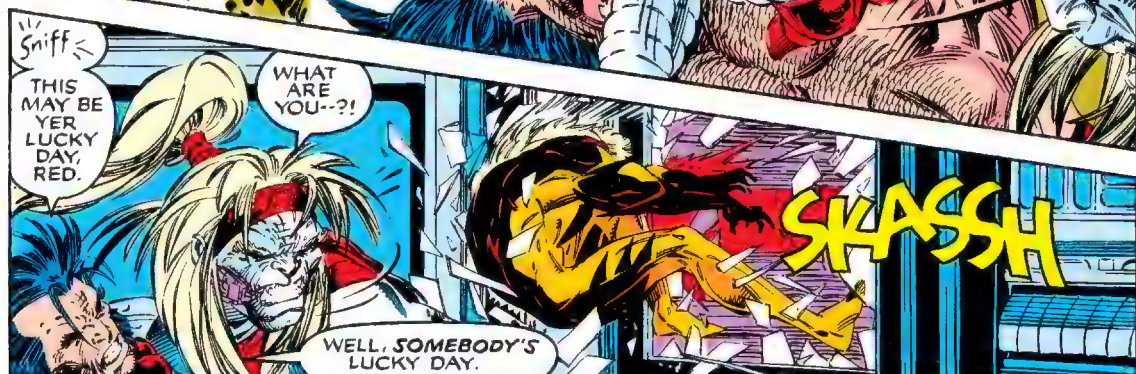
--COUNTLESS  
HOURS O'  
TRAININ' IN  
A DANGER  
ROOM...

... AND  
YA GOT THE  
NERVE TO  
CALL THAT  
"NOTHING"  
?!

SO  
TELL  
ME--

SKBRKAK









I BELIEVE YOU PEOPLE HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO US?

SHORT LI'L FELLA.

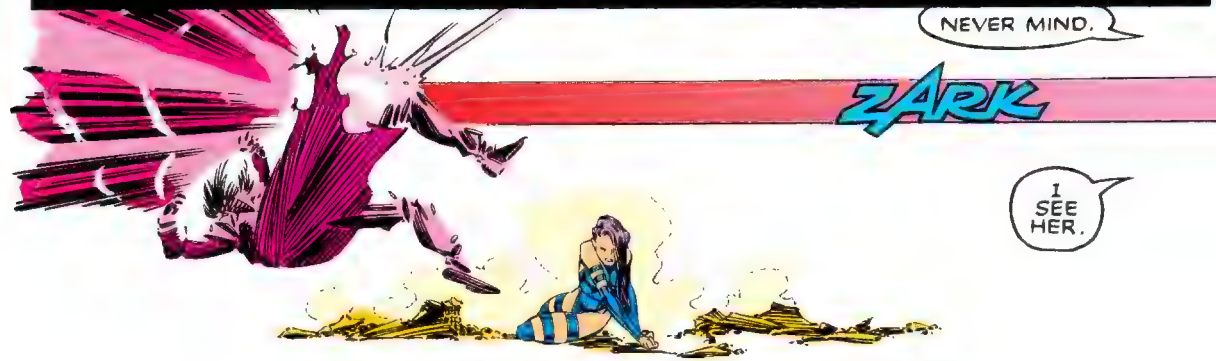
ALL ADAMANTIUM AND ATTITUDE.

HE'S ONE OF A KIND.

WE'D LIKE HIM BACK.

AND DON'T FORGET OUR RESIDENT PSIONIC JAPANESE-BY-WAY-OF-BRITAIN NINJA WARRIOR.

YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW HARD THEY ARE TO REPLACE!

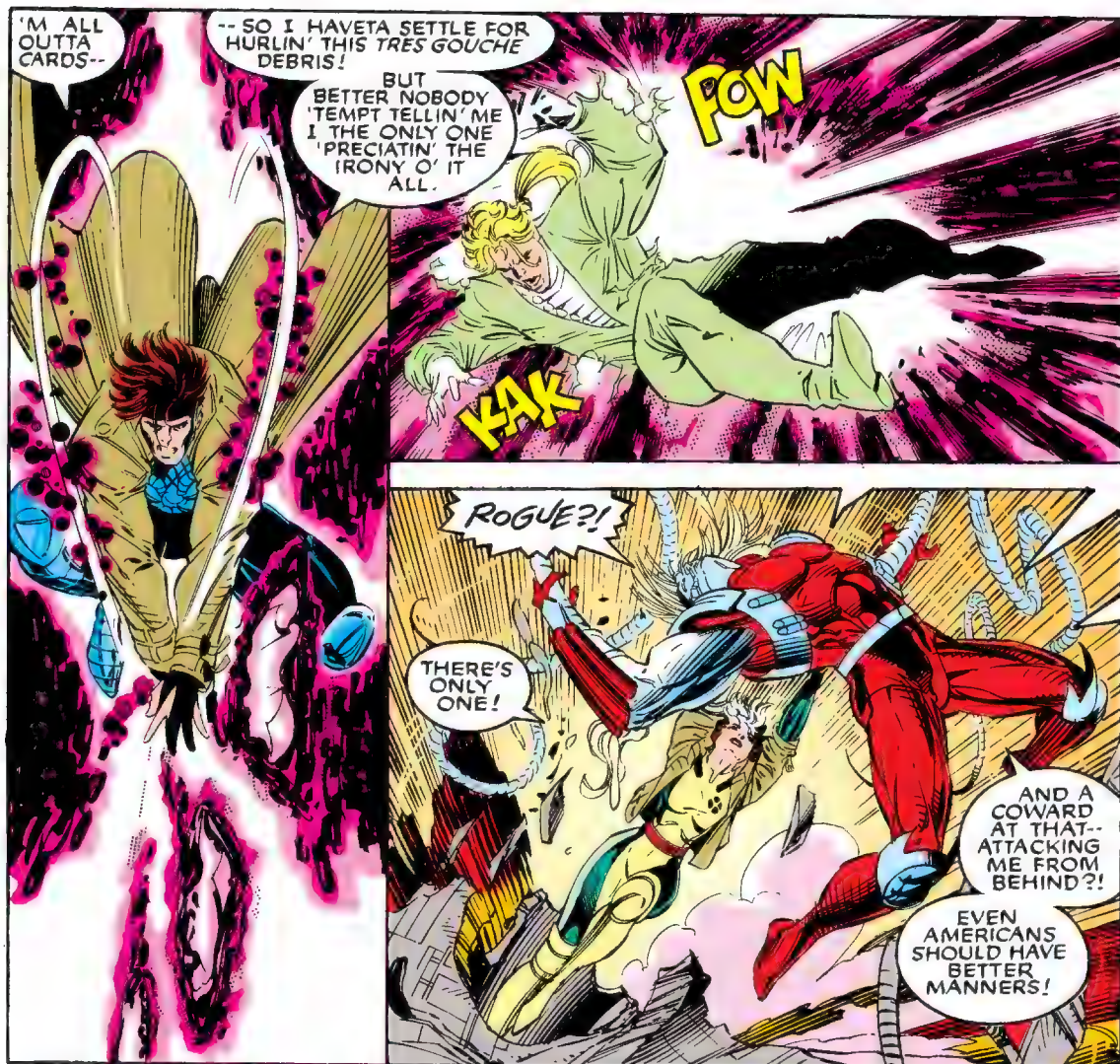


NEVER MIND.

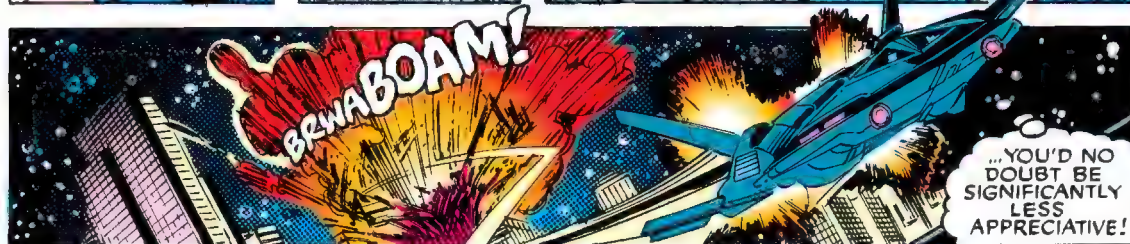
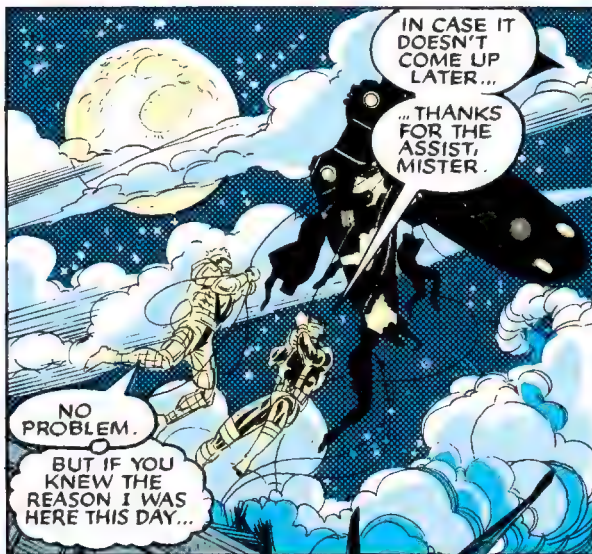
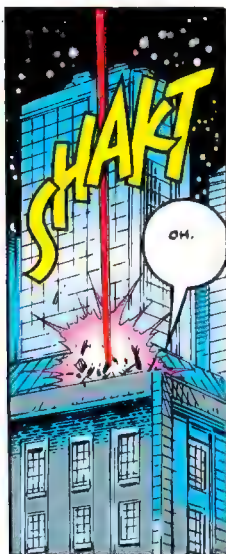
ZARK

I SEE HER.

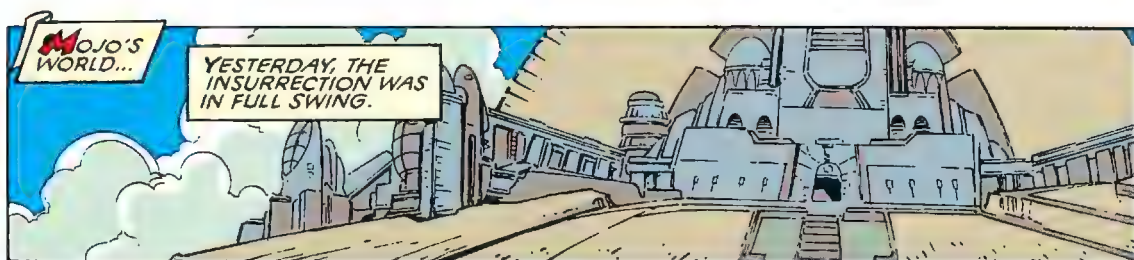






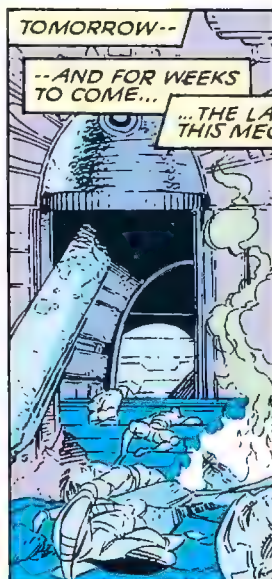






**MOJO'S  
WORLD...**

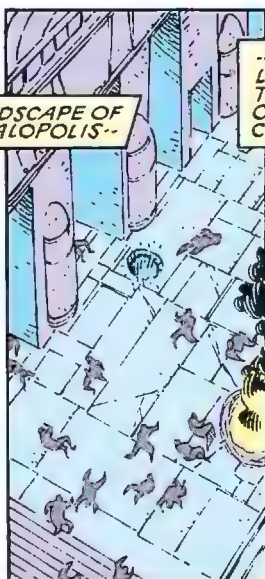
YESTERDAY, THE  
INSURRECTION WAS  
IN FULL SWING.



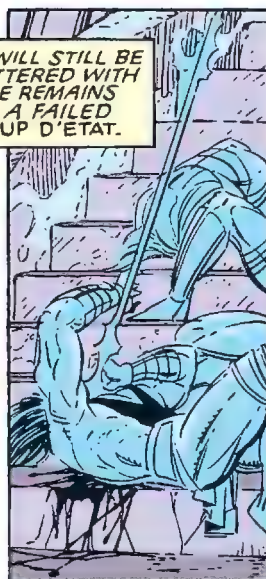
TOMORROW--

--AND FOR WEEKS  
TO COME...

...THE LANDSCAPE OF  
THIS MEGALOPOLIS--

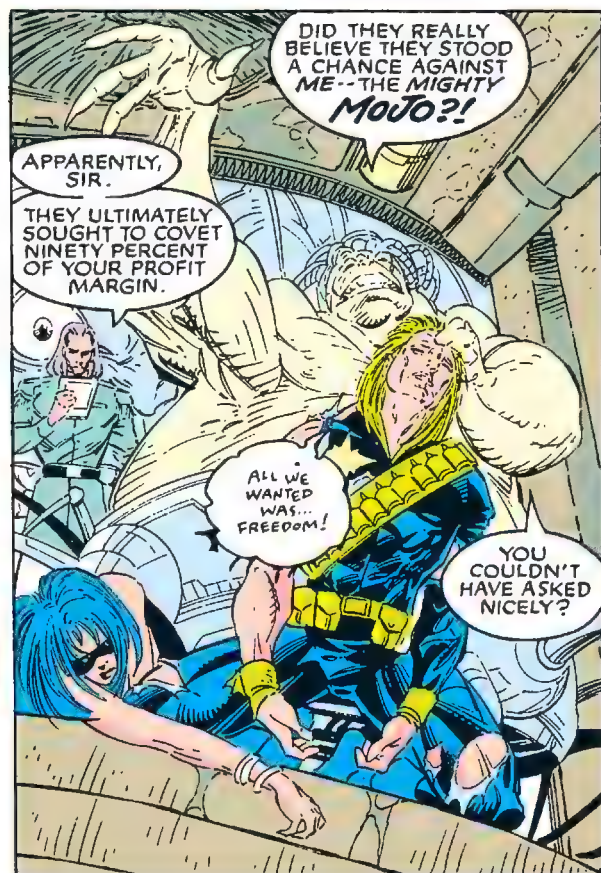


--WILL STILL BE  
LITTERED WITH  
THE REMAINS  
OF A FAILED  
COUP D'ETAT.



BUT FOR TODAY,  
AT LEAST, ONE  
WARRIOR STILL  
STANDS--

--TO BEAR  
WITNESS TO  
THE DEATH  
OF A DREAM!



DID THEY REALLY  
BELIEVE THEY STOOD  
A CHANCE AGAINST  
ME--THE MIGHTY  
**MOJO?!**

APPARENTLY,  
SIR.

THEY ULTIMATELY  
SOUGHT TO COVET  
NINETY PERCENT  
OF YOUR PROFIT  
MARGIN.

ALL WE  
WANTED  
WAS...  
FREEDOM!

YOU  
COULDN'T  
HAVE ASKED  
NICELY?



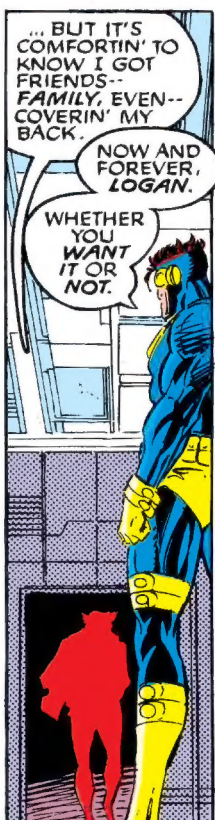
WE ALMOST  
TOOK HIM WITH  
AN ARMY OF  
DEDICATED  
SOLDIERS--

--AND A  
COUPLE OF  
RUSTY  
X-MEN.

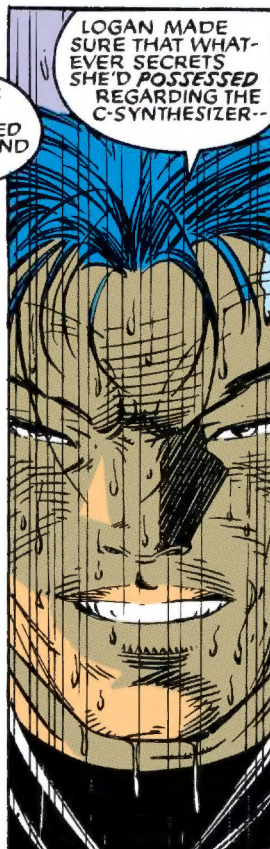
MAYBE IT'S  
TIME TO SEE  
HOW WELL HE  
FARES AGAINST  
A TRIO OF  
SOLDIERS--

--AND AN  
ARMY OF  
X-MEN!

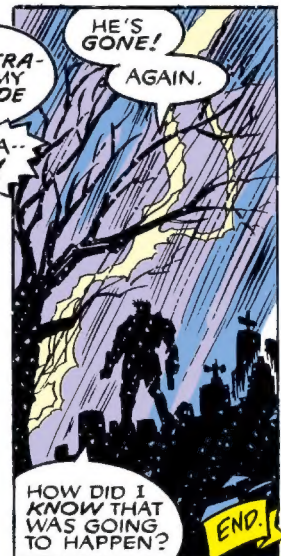
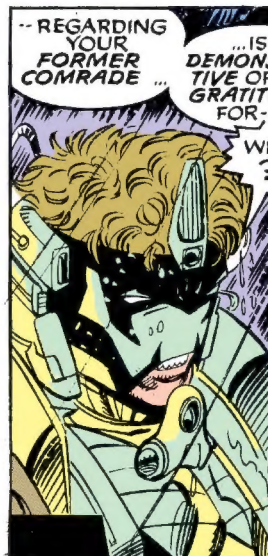
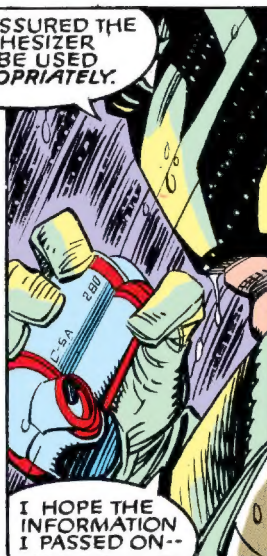
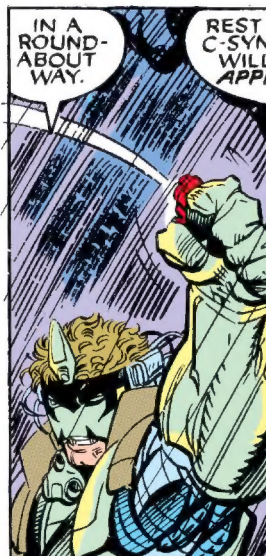
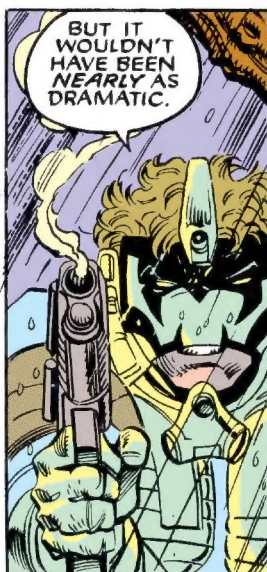
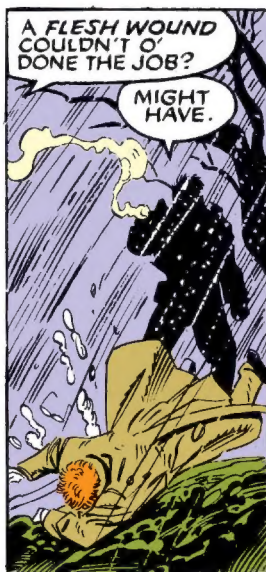
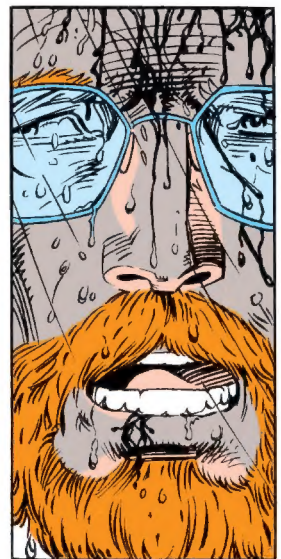
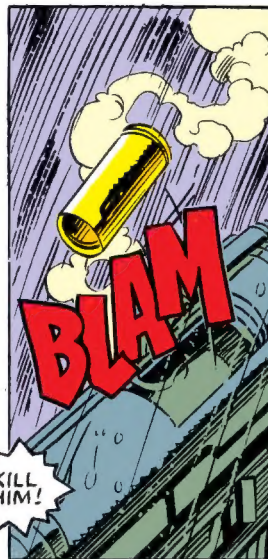














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